Report of proceedings at the public dinner in honour of Sir Robert Christison, Bart. on Friday, February 23, 1872 being the fiftieth anniversary of his induction as a professor in the University of Edinburgh.

With the Compliments of the Stewards.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

PUBLIC DINNER

IN HONOUR OF

Sir Robert Christison, Bart.

M.D., D.C.L.

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, ETC. ETC.

ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1872

BEING THE

Fiftieth Anniversary of his Induction as a Professor in the University of Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

1872.

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SPEAKERS.

THE subjoined extended report of the dinner to Sir Robert Christison, Bart., has been printed in compliance with a generally expressed desire for a fuller record of the festival than was given at the time by the newspapers. So much space in their columns was occupied by the interesting proceedings of the forenoon,—the presentation by the Members of No. 4 University Company of the Queen's Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Brigade of a Sword of honour to Sir Robert Christison as their Captain,—and of an Address from Graduates of the University of Edinburgh in London, by a deputation of three of their number who came from the metropolis to take part in the jubilee,—that the newspapers and scientific journals could find room for little more than a report of the two principal speeches of the evening.

By many of the speakers, however, who followed the Lord Justice-General and Sir Robert Christison, remarks were made upon subjects of much interest, particularly in reference to Academic questions ; and it is with an especial desire to preserve a record of these, that the committee, who superintended the arrangements for the dinner, have issued this extended report.

They have to acknowledge their obligations to the numerous speakers for their revision of the reports of their respective Addresses.

EDINBURGH, *April 8th*, 1872.

PUBLIC DINNER

TO

SIR ROBERT CHRISTISON, BART.,

M.D., D.C.L.

PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH, ETC. ETC.

GIVEN IN HIS HONOUR ON

FRIDAY, THE 23D OF FEBRUARY 1872,

Being the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Induction as a Professor in the University of Edinburgh.

Chairman.

The Right Hon. JOHN INGLIS, Lord Justice-General,
Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

Croupiers.

Sir WM. STIRLING-MAXWELL, Bart., Rector Edinburgh University.
Sir ALEXANDER GRANT, Bart., Principal Edinburgh University.
ROBERT PATERSON, Esq., M.D., Pres. R. C. Phys. Edinr.
WILLIAM WALKER, Esq., M.D., Pres. R. C. Surg. Edinr.
J. G. FLEMING, Esq., M.D., Pres. Fac. Phys. and Surg. Glasg.

Stewards.

The Right Hon. WILLIAM LAW, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.
The Right Hon. Lord COLONSAY.
The Right Hon. the LORD ADVOCATE, Q.C., M.P.
The Right Hon. Sir JAMES MONCREIFF, Bart., Lord Justice-Clerk.
The Right Hon. Sir WILLIAM GIBSON-CRAIG, Bart.
The Hon. Lord ARDMILLAN.
The Hon. Lord NEAVES.
The Hon. Lord MACKENZIE.
E. S. GORDON, Esq., Q.C., M.P., Dean of Faculty.
The SOLICITOR-GENERAL.
Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR, C.B., M.P.
Sir DAVID BAXTER, Bart.
Sir GEORGE HARVEY, P.R.S.A.
Sir WILLIAM THOMSON, D.C.L., LL.D.
Sir JAMES COXE, M.D.
The Hon. BOUVERIE PRIMROSE.

The Right Rev. R. H. STEVENSON, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
Professor BALFOUR, Edinburgh.
,, BENNETT, ,,
,, MACLAGAN, ,,
,, CRUM BROWN, ,,
,, FRASER, ,,
,, MACPHERSON, ,,
,, WILSON, ,,
,, OSWALD BELL, St. Andrews.
,, MACROBIN, Aberdeen.
,, ALLEN THOMSON, Glasgow.
,, GAIRDNER, ,,
,, SHARPEY, University College, London.
,, PRIESTLEY, King's College, ,,
,, EMBLETON, Durham University.
,, PARKES, Army Medical School, Netley.
,, STOKES, Dublin.
,, ANDREWS, Belfast.
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A. COVENTRY, Esq., Advocate.
THOMAS STEVENSON, Esq., C.E., F.R.S.E.
E. WILLIS WAY, Esq., M.B., Sen. Pres. Royal Med. Society.
J. HOPE FINLAY, Esq., W.S., *Honorary Secretary.*

THE DINNER.

At half-past six o'clock a company, numbering about two hundred and fifty gentlemen, sat down to dinner in the Douglas Hotel (Slaney's). The tables were admirably laid out, a fine collection of greenhouse plants placed at intervals along the tables adding considerably to the agreeable effect of the scene. It may here be mentioned that, after the dinner was concluded, Misses Marion and Harriette Christison, Sir Robert Christison's grandchildren, and other ladies of the family, occupied places in the gallery; and that during the evening the proceedings were much enlivened by the excellent singing of a choir party, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Dr. Maclagan, Dr. D. Christison, Mr. Finlay, Mr. John Christison, Mr. D. D. Maclagan, and Herr Küchler.

The Right Hon. John Inglis, Lord Justice-General, Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, occupied the chair; and the croupiers were—Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., Rector Edinburgh University; Sir Alexander Grant, Bart., Principal Edinburgh University; Robert Paterson, Esq., M.D., President Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; William Walker, Esq., President Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; J. G. Fleming, Esq., M.D., President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. Among others present, besides Sir Robert Christison, were—David Christison, Esq., M.D., and John Christison, Esq., W.S. (Sir Robert Christison's sons); the Rev. Alexander Christison of Foulden (Sir Robert Christison's twin brother), and the Rev. John Christison of Biggar (Sir Robert Christison's cousin); the Lord Provost; the Lord Justice-Clerk; Sir William Gibson-Craig, Bart.; Lord Deas, Lord Ardmillan, Lord Mackenzie, Sir David Baxter, Bart.; Sir George Harvey, President Royal Scottish Academy; Sir William Thomson,

D.C.L.; Sir James Coxe, M.D.; the Hon. Bouverie Primrose; the Right Rev. R. H. Stevenson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; Bailie Miller; Professor Acland, M.D., Oxford; Dr. Halley, Dr. Dyce Duckworth and Richard Davy, Esq., the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretaries of the Edinburgh University Club, London; Dr. James Moore, Belfast; Professors Kelland, Balfour, Crawford, Maclagan, Crum Brown, Fraser, Macpherson, Wilson, Lorimer, Tytler, Muirhead, Stevenson, Simpson, Turner, Wyville Thomson, Charteris, Calderwood, Masson, Liston, Spence, Fleeming Jenkin, Lister, and Sanders, Edinburgh University; Professors Allen Thomson, Gairdner, Dickson, M'Leod, Cowan, and M'Call Anderson, Glasgow; Professor Oswald H. Bell, St. Andrews; the Rev. Dr. Maxwell Nicholson, Rev. Dr. Hanna, Rev. Dr. Stevenson, Coupar-Angus; Rev. Mr. Armstrong, Skirling; Staff Surgeon-Major C. W. Fasson, Surgeon-Major Leitch, Surgeon-Major Renton, Surgeon-Major Cowie, Sanitary Commissioner for British Burmah; Dr. Williamson, 7th Dragoon Guards; G. J. Shaw, Esq., M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals; Drs. R. Elliot, Clouston, and W. Reeves, Carlisle; A. Marchmont Watson, Wortley; Paterson, Claud Muirhead, Smart, J. Sanderson, Gamgee, Young, Hardie, Arthur Mitchell, Chiene, Sinclair, Grainger Stewart, George Keith, John Duncan, Benjamin Bell, Charles Bell, Warburton Begbie, J. Matthews Duncan, John Brown, J. Simson, D. R. Haldane, J. S. Combe, Keillor, Pattison, Alexander Peddie, Joseph Bell, John Smith, G. W. Balfour, J. Smith, Argyle Robertson, Fraser, Heron Watson, Blair Cunninghame, J. D. Gillespie, Bruce Bremner, J. B. Malcolm, W. Reid, Graham Weir, Affleck, Orphoot, William Robertson, Annandale, Andrew Wood, James Dunsmure, Hammond, G. H. Smith, R. C. Furley, Wright, T. Strethill Wright, and Omond, Edinburgh; Dr. Mackintosh, South Australia; Drs. Eadie, Fergus, Morton, Lyon, Cameron, and Wilson, Glasgow; Drs. Paterson, Bridge of Allan; Baird and Hunter, Linlithgow; Moffat, Falkirk; Brotherston, Alloa; Anderson, Selkirk; Turnbull, Coldstream; Strachan, Dollar; Farquharson, Tillicoultry; Balfour Kirk, Bathgate; Shand, Oakley; J. W. Wemyss, Broughty Ferry; Irvine, Pitlochrie;

Carmichael, Burntisland ; Dow, Dunfermline ; Milligan, Thornhill ; Nimmo, Dundee ; Kynock, Greenlaw ; Stewart, Chirnside ; Wilson, Inverness ; Bogie, Annan ; Archibald, St. Andrews ; W. R. Thomson, Dalkeith ; Messrs. A. Coventry ; T. Ivory, President Royal Scottish Society of Arts ; T. Stevenson, C.E. ; John Wilkie of Foulden, C. Milne Home of Wedderburn, A. Campbell Swinton of Kimmerghame, W. Stuart Walker of Bowland, J. Young of Kelly ; John Christie of Cowden, Dr. Cleghorn of Stravithy, T. J. Boyd, James Webster, S.S.C. ; J. Dick Peddie, Secretary Royal Scottish Academy ; John Steell, R.S.A. ; William Brodie, R.S.A. ; William Stuart, Peebles ; R. Cowan, T. R. Robertson, W.S. ; J. H. Robertson, John Cook, W.S. ; James W. Winchester, LL.D. ; Charles Jenner, William Sim, Maurice Lothian, William Turnbull, W.S. ; G. T. Chiene, C.A. ; Charles Pearson, C.A. ; Robert Brown, Underwood Park ; Robert Bryson, Alexander Landale, St. Boswells ; Robert Landale, Alexander Lawson of Burnturk, James Hope, D.K.S. ; J. Syme ; John Marshall of Curriehill, John Gillespie, W.S. ; Adam Black of Priorbank, J. T. Black, G. Lichtenstein, William White, T. G. Murray, W.S. ; H. C. Baildon and John Mackay, President and Secretary North British Pharmaceutical Society ; James Mackay, R. M. Smith, Charles Bruce, Thomas Knox, Master of the Merchant Company ; A. Kirk Mackie, S.S.C., Secretary of the Merchant Company ; J. W. Tawse, W.S. ; George Bruce, W.S. ; William Finlay, A. Ogilvie, Old Liston ; J. D. Ogilvie, Mardon ; J. H. A. Macdonald, advocate ; J. S. Darling, W.S. ; A. Thomson, Tillicoultry ; Charles Morton, W.S. ; David Watson, Bathgate ; Edmund Baxter, Auditor of the Court of Session ; W. Handyside, Alexander H. Lee, Robert Lee, advocate ; D. Douglas Maclagan, George Harrison, William Tait, J. Buchanan, J. R. Young, John Gillon, Wardie House ; John M'Culloch, banker ; William Drysdale, D.C.S. ; D. E. Berryman, T. Hill Burton, A. Aitken, T. B. Johnston, James Brown, Brownhouse ; Alexander Inglis, younger of Glencorse ; John Cox, Robert Clark, Wm. Nelson ; J. Hope Finlay, W.S., *Honorary Secretary.*

Apologies were received from Lord Colonsay, the Lord Advocate, Lord Neaves, Lord Mure, E. S. Gordon, Esq., Q.C.,

M.P. ; Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., M.P. ; Sir William Johnston, the Rev. Dr. K. M. Phin, Professors Blackie, Bennett, Sellar, Oakley, and Laycock, Edinburgh ; Macquorn Rankine, Glasgow ; Macrobin, Aberdeen ; Sharpey, London ; Priestley, London ; Embleton, Durham ; Parkes, Netley ; Stokes, Dublin ; Andrews, Belfast ; Drs. Paget, Cambridge ; Sieveking, London ; Hawkins, London ; Rumsey, Cheltenham ; Gairdner, Renton, Handyside, Cumming, Craig Maclagan, Edinburgh ; E. Willis Way, Esq. ; William Thomas Thomson, Esq. ; David Smith, Esq., Treasurer Royal Society ; D. B. Hope, Esq., Dumfries ; A. B. Shand, Esq. ; A. T. Niven, Esq. ; William Skinner, Esq.

On the right of the chair were—Sir Robert Christison, the Lord Justice-Clerk, Professor Acland, Oxford ; Lord Ardmillan, Sir D. Baxter, the Solicitor-General, the Right Rev. R. H. Stevenson, Moderator of the General Assembly ; Mr. Adam Black, Mr. Richard Davy, Mr. W. S. Walker, Dr. G. J. Shaw, and Mr. J. H. A. Macdonald. On the left—the Lord Provost, Lord Deas, Sir William Thomson, the Rev. J. Christison, Dr. Alexander Halley, Lord Mackenzie, and Sir James Coxe ; Mr. W. Walker, Professor Kelland, the Rev. Dr. Nicholson, and Staff Surgeon-Major Fasson.

Sir William Stirling-Maxwell was supported on the right and left by the Hon. B. F. Primrose, Mr. A. C. Swinton, Mr. D. Milne Home, Sir W. Gibson-Craig, Sir George Harvey, and Mr. J. Wilkie. Principal Sir Alexander Grant had on his right and left hand, D. Dyce Duckworth, Rev. Dr. Hanna, Dr. John Brown, Mr. J. Young, Professor Masson, Dr. Simson. Dr. Fleming was supported by Dr. Combe, Professor Allen Thomson, Professor Crawford, Mr. Knox, Master of the Merchant Company ; Professor Balfour, and Dr. Moore, Belfast ; and Dr. Paterson was supported by Professor Macleod, Dr. M. Duncan, Bailie Miller, and Professor O. H. Bell, St. Andrews.

Grace was said by the Right Rev. R. H. Stevenson ; and after dinner thanks were returned by the Rev. Dr. Hanna.

The CHAIRMAN, in giving "The Queen," said that within a very few days her Majesty would proceed to St. Paul's under remarkable and impressive circumstances, to offer up thanksgiving

for the recovery of the Prince of Wales from his late dangerous and alarming illness. Her Majesty had been pleased to signify her gracious desire that that ceremonial should assume as much as possible a national and representative character; but he felt persuaded that not merely the voice of the multitude who will occupy the church on that occasion, but the entire heart of this great nation will be uplifted in solemn thanksgiving for deliverance from a great national calamity — (Cheers) — and prayer for the future health and wellbeing of her Majesty and her beloved son. (Loud cheers.)

The drinking of the toast, which took place amid enthusiastic cheering, was followed by the chorus, "Here's a health unto her Majesty."—(Saville.)

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal Family," which was drunk amid loud cheering.

The CHAIRMAN said he had now to propose the old constitutional toast of "The Navy, Army, and the Army of Reserve." (Applause.) In former times it was the habit to introduce this toast with remarks of indiscriminate laudation, but they now lived in more critical times. (Laughter.) Certain recent disasters at sea in connection with the navy had somewhat disturbed the public mind, although he did not suppose any patriotic individual in this country would permit himself to doubt that Britannia still rules the waves. (Applause.) With regard to the Army, he could only say that, in its present state of transition, the best hope they could entertain was that the plan which was shadowed forth on the previous night by the Minister of War would be entirely successful. (Applause.) That would be the hope of every one. The Army of Reserve would now be brought into more close connection with the Army; and he begged leave to couple with the toast of the Army and Navy the name of Staff Surgeon-Major C. W. Fasson, and with the Army of Reserve that of Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald. (Applause.)

Staff Surgeon-Major FASSON returned thanks for the Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel MACDONALD, in replying for the Army of

Reserve, said that although it would be unbecoming in him to refer to the guest of the evening, he took the liberty, and he thought the liberty justifiable, of saying that they had in the guest of the evening one of the best examples of what an officer of the reserve should be. (Applause.) He could only say that in their guest they had an example to many younger men of how they could perform their part as members of the reserve along with their other duties. (Applause.) His Lordship had said that the Army of Reserve was now to be brought into closer connection with the regular army. Allow him to say for the Army of Reserve, that it was not in any hope of vying with the army that they desired to be placed alongside of them, but solely that they might learn from them to do their duty to the best of their ability, as they always had manfully done. (Applause.)

Here followed the quartet—"Kriegslied."—(Spohr.)

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the City of Edinburgh." He said it was the fate of all men who were placed in a conspicuous position in this country to be the subject of much comment and criticism—(Laughter and cheers)—and not unfrequently that criticism was sharp and severe, and sometimes unjust. But in the long run public opinion did full justice to those who did their duty. (Applause.) And he felt confident that he should carry their sympathies with him when he said that the Lord Provost and Magistrates of the city, however some of their citizens might differ from them upon various topics and various subjects of civic legislation and municipal government, got credit for sincerity and honesty in their desire to promote the public good. (Applause.)

The LORD PROVOST, in reply, said that in the course of the discharge of their various duties they were far more accustomed to be abused than praised. (Laughter and applause.) Being accustomed to that sort of thing, a little more or a little less abuse had very little effect upon them. (Laughter.) They tried to do what they could for their benefit. What he had done was before them. In what he should have to do during the short period he was yet to be in office, he had only to try to avoid giving offence. He would rather part with some measure of

municipal policy than he would run the risk of giving offence. He was very much impressed with the sentiments he read very long ago in that celebrated book called "Junius," and the advice given to all municipal rulers, and to men placed in situations for which they were considered unfit—(Hear, hear)—"To pass without censure is to pass without observation; and to pass without observation was the only safety of civic rulers." (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN proceeded to give the toast of the evening. On the 23d February 1822 (he said), just fifty years ago, Dr. Robert Christison, then in the twenty-fifth year of his age, was installed in the Professorship of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh. From that day to this, uninterruptedly, he has exercised the functions of a Professor in the same University. (Applause.) In that short and simple statement how much is signified and comprehended! What stores of experience accumulated—what an amount of arduous toil encountered, of knowledge acquired and of knowledge communicated, of difficulties overcome, of success achieved, of honour won! (Applause.) In no case, I fear, can so long a vista present a picture of unbroken beauty and order; and yet, in the case of most men who have passed a long period in an office of public trust, if they have not misused their opportunities or misspent their time, the retrospect will bring many cheering and pleasant memories, and afford food for grave reflection that will both soothe and satisfy. But it has been the rare fortune of our distinguished friend and guest that he has passed through his protracted career of scientific study and practical usefulness without any serious disturbance or check, except, indeed, such as are necessarily incident to the life of every man; and having earned a reputation of which the greatest and the wisest might be proud, he now stands before us in all the strength of his manhood, his physical energy scarcely affected by the lapse of time, and his intellectual powers as fresh and vigorous as they were in what most men esteem to be the prime of life. (Applause.) Even before his election to the professorship, Dr. Christison may be said to have been a favoured child of the University, for, though he was not actually born in the academic purple, his father became a Professor when

he was only nine years of age, and the consequence was that he received all his proper University education in the same place; and, having passed through the curriculum of Arts, and through a long and complete course of medical and surgical study with great distinction, he took his degree of Doctor of Medicine just two years and a half before his election as Professor. Of the father of Sir Robert Christison, my knowledge is, of course, obtained from tradition only. I indeed remember his venerable aspect, but was too young to appreciate his character, or to profit by his conversation. I have, however, heard my father speak of the old Professor with the kindest regard—of his strict integrity, of his amiable disposition, of the many difficulties and struggles that beset his youth and his early education, of the manly spirit with which he overcame them, and, above all, of his earnest devotion to classical learning, which was the subject of his academic prelections. His enthusiastic admiration of the great heroes of ancient Greece and Rome was well known to all his contemporaries and pupils, and may be illustrated by reference to a somewhat singular connection which existed between him and the great tragedian, John Kemble. The Professor had been so captivated by his grand conception and representation of the old Roman characters of Shakespeare's plays, that he sought and obtained the acquaintance of the tragedian; and so warm was the sympathy that grew up between these two men, that from that time Kemble never visited Edinburgh without renewing his intercourse with the learned Professor of Humanity, to their mutual edification and delight. The influence exercised by such a father on the formation of his children's character and habits of thought it is difficult precisely to estimate; but that Sir Robert Christison was in this respect very fortunate will not be disputed by any one acquainted with the circumstances, and, least of all, I am sure, by Sir Robert himself.

Of the qualifications required for a Professor of Medical Jurisprudence it would ill become me to speak dogmatically in such an assembly as the present; and yet I may be permitted to suggest that if the office of the medical jurist is to apply the whole range of medical science, to aid Courts in the administration of justice, and Parliament in the work of legislation, and

municipal governors in the organisation of a rational system of sanitary police, then no man can be fitted either to teach or to practise that application of science who is not a master, in theory at least, of every branch of the science to be applied. If we would rightly estimate the difficulties that necessarily beset a Professor of Medical Jurisprudence half-a-century ago, we must consider what were the materials at his command, and what was the state of the science in this country. Forensic medicine had indeed made progress since its existence and utility were first recognised by the Emperor Charles V. in his *Constitutio Criminalis Carolina*, promulgated at the diet of Ratisbon; but though the study had been zealously pursued in Germany, France, and Italy, it had been of a speculative rather than a practical character. No doubt, in the end of last century, the great work of Foderé had issued from the Parisian press, and in 1814 the subject of Toxicology had been presented in a new and most attractive form by Orfila. Yet in 1822 there was not in the English language any treatise of authority, either on Medical Jurisprudence generally, or on any important division of the subject; for it was not till the following year that the useful compendium of Paris and Fonblanque was published in London. Medical jurisprudence, half-a-century ago, may be said to have been almost in its infancy, as compared with what it is now. Its enormous and wonderful advance since then has been due to the combined efforts of a great many men of ability and science in every nation of the civilised world; and among the foremost of that band will be found the young Professor who commenced his prelections in Edinburgh in 1822. (Applause.)

In the interval between graduation and his appointment as Professor, Dr. Christison resorted to the London Hospitals to extend his acquaintance with the practice of medicine, and then to Paris, where, for a winter, he spent his entire days in the laboratory of the eminent chemist, Robiquet, studying the highest branches of chemical analysis. At the same time he had an opportunity of hearing the lectures of Vauquelin and Thenard on chemistry, of Guy-Lussac on physics, and Orfila on Toxicology; and he was a regular visitor of the French Institute while La Place still attended it, and when Arago, Biot, Ampere, and

Pelletier and Caventou communicated their discoveries to its meetings. The acquaintance which he then formed with Orfila led to much correspondence between them in after years on subjects in which they were mutually interested, a correspondence frequently marked by a polemical, though always by an amicable spirit, and from which the world of science derived much advantage, as it always does from the collision and conflict of great minds. About this time, too, I apprehend, it was, that commenced his close intimacy with our own great surgeon, Syme, and with the eminent chemist Edward Turner, an intimacy which ended only with their lives.

Thus equipped for his duties, Dr. Christison met his class, which consisted at first of only twelve students. He was ten years in the chair, and bequeathed to his successor a class of ninety. But in the interval he had done far greater things than that, for in 1829 he had published the first edition of his Treatise on Poisons—(applause)—a book which was received at once by physicians and jurists and men of science as the most philosophical and complete work that had yet been published on the subject—(applause)—and which I believe I am not mistaken in speaking of as still the standard book. Many changes must have been introduced in the interval in the details of toxicological manipulation; but as far as principles are concerned, and the exposition of the nature and action of poisons, it is still unrivalled. (Applause.) I wish I could adequately convey to those who are not perfectly acquainted with the subject the vast variety of experiments through which a medical jurist must travel before he can attain to great results, and the qualities of mind and of body which are requisite to the successful conduct of such experiments. It is almost impossible to do so; but all will at once understand, that the utmost care in the selection of materials, the most perfect accuracy in avoiding all disturbing elements in the conduct of the experiments, and the most vigilant observation during their progress, are indispensable. And yet I suspect there is one quality more requisite still, and that is honesty, not merely to others, but to one's self—the careful avoidance of self-delusion. Some of the experiments which a toxicologist must make, and did every day make, are marked, if I may be pardoned for

saying so, by an amount of enthusiasm and courage bordering on foolhardiness. For I find that our guest has experimented with poisons upon his own precious person in a way which you will scarcely believe, but of which you will perhaps allow me to give one or two examples. Arsenious acid (which the vulgar poisoner calls arsenic) had long had the reputation of a very bad taste. It was said to have a rough, strong, acrid taste, and so all the toxicologists believed; and that opinion was expressly endorsed and adopted by Orfila. But Dr. Christison suspected this was a mistake, and set himself to correct it; and he not only tasted arsenic himself, but prevailed upon various other medical friends to follow him—(laughter)—and they actually put arsenic as far back upon their tongues as they possibly could, stopping short only of the point of involuntary deglutition. (Laughter.) Now, that was certainly an experiment of a somewhat dangerous kind, but still it was followed by most successful results, for they discovered and established that arsenic was not acrid in taste, but rather sweet, and they convinced the whole world of this fact, except Orfila. But Orfila maintained his own opinion, and would not be convinced; and all that Dr. Christison could say to it was that the sensations of the learned Professor either must be imaginary, or indicated an organ of taste peculiarly constituted. (Laughter.) On another occasion he made trial of another virulent poison, the root of the Œnanthe crocata, which had been often the cause of fatal accidents on the Continent and in England. Some circumstances led him to doubt its poisonous properties in a latitude so far north as our own; and by experiment he ascertained that it was not a poison to various animals, when growing in this neighbourhood. So satisfied was he of that fact that he ate an ounce of the root, without experiencing any particular effects, except, says he, "its disagreeable taste, which was the only circumstance that prevented me taking a larger quantity." And thus he proved that the soil of Scotland, in one locality at least, deprives of its injurious properties a plant which is elsewhere a deadly poison. Another substance upon which Dr. Christison experimented was the Calabar bean, a vegetable of a most mysterious character, and one for which I must confess I have rather a predilection, because it has been used for purposes of

medical jurisprudence and to aid in the administration of justice in a far distant country. (Laughter.) When a murder was committed in Calabar, all the people who could possibly be implicated got a dose of the bean ; the innocent vomited it and recovered, the guilty retained the poison and died. Such is the state of Medical Jurisprudence in Africa. Professor Christison, with his usual desire to get at the bottom of everything, experimented with this vegetable also. He took a dose before going to bed, and found that it acted a good deal like opium. It was not unpleasant. He had a very good sleep, and on the whole felt pretty comfortable in the morning. He was rather disappointed—(laughter)—and took a considerably larger dose before dressing himself; but before the process of dressing was completed he became satisfied that he "had got hold of a very energetic poison." The truth was, he collapsed altogether for a time, and if it had not been that his instinct as a toxicologist led him to seize upon the first emetic that came to hand, no man could tell what the consequences would have been. But he swallowed his shaving-water—(laughter)—which he had immediately before put to what might be called its primary use, and by that means he became partially relieved; but still the symptoms were very alarming. There was great prostration. He could not stand, and the action of the heart became very irregular. A great many other alarming symptoms ensued, so that at last he positively condescended to ring the bell for his son, and ask him to send for two medical friends to come and see him. Now, I confess I have a difficulty in imagining the scene which must have presented itself to these two scientific gentlemen when they arrived, or the feelings which that scene must have aroused. They must have been, of course, very much concerned to see the alarming condition of their old friend, but there must also have been great curiosity to witness the action of the poison—(laughter)—and I am not sure whether the scene, upon the whole, partook more of the serious or of the comic. But in the end, I think, the comic prevailed, for I can find no parallel to it except in the case of Monsieur Mantilini poisoning himself for the seventh time. (Laughter.)

Dr. Christison, soon after his appointment as Professor, be-

came engaged as an expert in Courts of Justice. He began to act in that capacity in 1829, when he gave evidence as a skilled witness in the famous trial of Burke and Hare; and I rather think that the last case, criminal or civil, in which Sir Robert appeared was in 1866, when he gave evidence in what was popularly known as the "Esk Pollution Case." Throughout the whole of that interval he was engaged in every case of importance that occurred in Scotland, and his services were also frequently required in English cases of the same description, one of which, of a more recent date than others, may be mentioned—the trial of Palmer for poisoning with strychnine—in which I believe I may say that the Professor's opinion, as delivered in Court, was regarded as a perfect model of scientific evidence. (Applause.) In regard to Sir Robert's qualifications for this particular function, I feel myself privileged to speak with confidence, for I have myself been frequently associated with him both in Court and in private consultation. I have examined him and have heard him examined as a witness upon every variety of questions, in cases involving issues of life and death, and the most important issues in regard to private interests that could be tried between man and man—cases requiring perfect knowledge of almost every branch of medical science—and I never saw him at fault. The reason was not far to seek, for the Professor went into the witness-box not in the spirit of a partisan, but in his proper office as a medical jurist, to aid the Court and the jury in the elucidation of truth, and in securing the ends of justice. (Applause.) Lawyers, and the public generally, are very apt to judge of witnesses, and particularly of skilled witnesses, according to the way in which they encounter the ordeal of a cross-examination; and, upon the whole, the test is not an unfair one. But skilled witnesses prepare themselves for such cross-examination in a great variety of ways. Some men are very reticent, some very eloquent; but I rather think reticence is found to be the more prudent course upon the whole—(laughter)—although it might be carried to excess. There is such a thing as over-reticence—of which my own experience could furnish apt examples. At an important trial in which I was engaged when Dean of Faculty, an eminent mining engineer was put into the box against me. I knew him

to be a very clever man and cunning of fence, so, finding that at the conclusion of his examination in chief he had not said anything very damaging to my case, I abstained altogether from cross-examining him, and he was about to leave the Court, when, unfortunately for me, the presiding Judge called him back, and put some questions to him, which brought out much stronger evidence for the party adducing him than he had already given. At the conclusion, the Judge asked him why he had not told the jury all that before; and the answer was, "Oh, my Lord, I was keeping that for the Dean of Faculty's cross!" But there is a reticence of another kind which is still less commendable, when a witness tells only a part of what he knows and thinks, but suppresses that which seems unfavourable to the party calling him. This is a device sometimes though rarely successful, and very dangerous in practice. Now, from all faults of that kind Professor Christison was entirely free. (Applause.) He formed his opinions after much and careful deliberation, and when they were once formed, they were not to be shaken. The consequence was that cross-examination with him was comparatively useless. He had nothing to conceal; and if it came to a mere conflict of intellects between the professor and the examining counsel, the odds were the professor would have the best of it. Another great quality in Dr. Christison's evidence was, that it was almost impossible either to misunderstand or misrepresent him, because, as the course of the reasoning by which he arrived at his result was logical and clear, so his language was terse, unaffected, and precise.

Professor Christison's transference to the Chair of Materia Medica in 1832, and some subsequent events, had the effect of directing his studies and pursuits into a new channel; and the lamented death in rapid succession of three great physicians of this city—Abercromby, Alison, and Davison—made such a blank in the higher walk of the profession—that of consulting physician—that all eyes were turned upon Dr. Christison as being the only man who could supply the want. He was thus led into a new line of employment, and a much larger and more extensive practice than he had ever intended, or probably desired. But in this new practice he distinguished himself as remarkably as in the old;

for his long experience as an hospital practitioner, both here and in London, had qualified him highly for clinical teaching, which now became part of his occupation, while of his great popularity as a consulting physician nothing need be said to the present assemblage. The position of a great physician is a very striking and remarkable one. It is in some degree analogous to that of a great advocate. The one is concerned with the bodily and mental health, and the other's occupation involves him in the consideration of the welfare of men's estates, and their patrimonial and personal interests of all kinds. Still, there are many points of similarity, and one of complete identity, in the relation of physician and patient on the one hand, and of advocate and client on the other. It is this, that neither the patient nor the client will obtain any benefit from the adviser to whom he may resort unless he give him his fullest confidence. It follows of necessity that no one can be fitted either to be a great physician or a great advocate who is not a man of scrupulous honour, because both the one and the other necessarily become possessed of many family and personal secrets—secrets that it would be a gross breach of confidence to disclose. This discreet reticence, which is the duty of every professional man, is more especially binding upon those who are most largely employed and trusted, and I am happy to think that it is a duty which is very rarely neglected or violated. (Cheers.) And yet the temptation to such neglect or violation is sometimes by no means slight. I was much struck lately in reading Sir Henry Holland's *Reminiscences*, by observing with what scrupulous care he seals his lips against stating one fact that has occurred or repeating one word that has been said in the sick-room or in consultation. But if he had not been so scrupulous, how infinitely more popular his book would have been. For there is scarcely a man or woman of distinction for the last forty years in this country who has not, some time or other, been his patient. This may be very tantalising to the lover of gossip, or to that unreflecting and selfish person called the general reader; but to all right-minded professional men it must be most gratifying and acceptable as a striking and instructive example of professional honour and propriety. That Dr.

Christison possessed this essential quality of a great physician, it is almost needless to say, for scrupulous honour is one of his most marked characteristics.

I wish I were able to speak with authority of the contributions which, in his twofold capacity of physician and clinical teacher, he made to the literature of his profession and to scientific medical investigation. The lessons which he taught as to the treatment of fever, and his researches regarding certain occult and little understood diseases of the kidneys, which he gave to the world in a separate Treatise, are well known to all my professional hearers, and I should despair of popularising such subjects for the benefit of the unlearned. I prefer to pass on to what we can all understand and appreciate—his eminent services in promoting the interests of the medical profession and of the University of Edinburgh.

No man could occupy two such professorial chairs for half-a-century without sending into the world an immense number of students; and certainly there is one very remarkable characteristic of our distinguished friend, which, I believe, nobody can dispute belongs to him almost beyond all other men—the faculty which he has of commanding the attention, and at the same time of securing the respect and affection, of his pupils. (Cheers.) Many of them must be present, but the great multitude in all parts of the world who are necessarily absent, would, I am sure, be most ready to join with us in expressing our admiration of the position which he occupies both as a Professor and physician, and of recognising the way in which he has devoted himself to promote the honour and interests of the profession. (Cheers.) In promoting those interests he is utterly incapable of jealousy or personal consideration. (Cheers.) He is guided by his own sense of rectitude, by his own judgment, and his own experience, and he prosecutes his course without turning to the right hand or to the left. (Applause.) I believe I could not better express the feeling entertained towards him by the medical profession at large than by saying that he is as pure a specimen as we could find of a professional gentleman. (Loud cheers.) In the Medical Council, to which he is sent on the nomination of her Majesty, his voice is often heard, and there his opinion is always deferred to

and received with the utmost respect. (Cheers.) Of his services to the University it is almost impossible to speak in terms of exaggeration. He has made its interests his own. As a member of the Senatus, as the representative of that body in the University Court, he is constantly engaged in University affairs, and his time is given to them without stint and without grudge. (Cheers.) In the University, as elsewhere, there are conflicts of opinion; but men always find his opinions stated with perfect distinctness, and at the same time with perfect courtesy. However much others may differ from him, I venture to say that they never distrust him, because they know that whatever he does and whatever he says is done and said with sincerity, and dignity, and candour. (Cheers.) Of the recent honours which have been conferred upon Sir Robert, I desire to mention only one. Upon the death of Sir David Brewster he was elected President of the Royal Society, and any man might well be proud to have his name added to a roll which hitherto contained only six other names, and those of great weight and authority—Henry, Duke of Buccleuch, Sir James Hall, Sir Walter Scott, Sir Thomas Brisbane, the Duke of Argyll, and Sir David Brewster. Those were men distinguished either by rank or by eminence in literature or general science. Sir Robert's position is somewhat different, for he is distinctively a man of special science. But it was consistent with the rules and in harmony with the policy of the Society that this class should be represented, especially when a man of the class presented himself so exceptionally eminent. The manner in which Sir Robert has filled the chair has more than justified the choice of the Society.

It is often a matter of delicacy, in speaking of a great man, to refer to his domestic relations. But in this respect I am free from all embarrassments. It has been Sir Robert's practice to "*beget* male children only," not for the reason that would have made Lady Macbeth an unsuitable mother for young ladies, but rather for the reason assigned by Macbeth himself,—

"For thy undaunted mettle should compose nothing but males."

It certainly seems poetically just and right that one whose character is so marked by the manly virtues—courage, self-reliance,

fidelity, magnanimity—should, as a propagator of his species, be largely represented by male descendants. But it is of far greater importance that the sons should be worthy of their sire. And here there is nothing left to be wished for. They are all that a wise and loving father could desire. Of another member of his family I desire to say one word—his twin brother—twins they have been in affection as in birth—whom we are gratified to see among us this evening. He has himself recently completed the fiftieth year of his professional life in the faithful discharge of his duties as a parish minister, and no one comes here with a fuller heart or in more sincerity to do honour to his more famous brother.

If I have been in any degree successful in stating or suggesting the great public services that Sir Robert Christison has performed, it cannot be surprising that her Majesty should desire to express her sense of those services, and of the high position occupied by her own Physician in Ordinary for Scotland, by conferring upon him a distinguished mark of royal favour. I believe no such honour was ever conferred with more unanimous assent and approval of all classes of the community. (Cheers.) But I think we value it chiefly at this moment because it affords us a fitting opportunity of meeting together to express our cordial feeling of respect, admiration, and affection for our honoured guest. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) He gave "Sir Robert Christison, Bart."

The toast was responded to amid loud and enthusiastic cheering.

Sir Robert Christison, who was received with loud cheering, the whole audience rising to their feet, said—

My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—Amidst the multiplicity of objects which come before my mind on this occasion, I find it hard to decide which of them to put before you, and which to pass by. But there is one of them which I can never lose sight of, and which must be foremost at the present moment, and will so remain for a long time to come.

It has been my lot throughout life to possess at all times good friends, to whom I have owed constantly much kindness,

and often substantial benefits;—benefits of which I can honestly say I have never been altogether forgetful, and for which I have endeavoured occasionally, to the extent of my power and opportunities, to show myself not ungrateful. But during the last few years your kindness, and that of other friends, for the present at a distance from us, has so showered favours on me, that I know not where to find the well of gratitude deep enough to yield a due return. You have so filled my cup to overflowing with gifts and with honours, that if I shall now fail to appear so thankful as I really am, and certainly ought to be, I beg you will lay my failure to the account of that excitement, and that confusion, which are well known to be the result of cups of all sorts of stimulants when served too full and too often. We have all heard in history of the intoxication of success; and although I cannot say that I have ever, in my physician's experience, either from psychological or toxicological observation, witnessed a case of intoxication clearly arising from such a cause, we must all admit that such an event is possible, and that it is even probable in my instance, although I may not myself be aware of its occurrence. For what are the facts?

About twelve years ago,—I look back upon that period now as a short one,—my colleagues of the Senatus Academicus unanimously appointed me their representative in the University Court, a part of our new constitution,—a most important and delicate office,—important and delicate at all times, but especially at the beginning, when all the several authorities of the University had to find their true places, and take care not to interfere with one another's provinces. On three several occasions my colleagues have reappointed me without a dissentient voice. But should a kind Providence allow me to finish another four years of service, I trust they will resolve to provide a successor to me. About the same time, at the recommendation of her Majesty's Law Advisers in Scotland, her Home Secretary requested me to undertake the equally important and not less delicate duty of being her Majesty's representative for the general medical profession of Scotland in the newly constituted Medical Council of the United Kingdom; and in that capacity I have been twice reappointed to serve for the period of

five years. Soon afterwards my brethren of the College of Physicians sent one of their number to me, commanding me to appear before our late eminent portrait-painter, Sir John Watson Gordon, in order that the College might have my resemblance hung upon its walls, in company with many of its worthies in past times. This would have been a great honour in any circumstances; but it was a double honour to me,—and, I may add, highly honourable too to my fellow-members,—because for a good many years previously the opinions of the majority in the College and mine, in regard to an important measure of medical reform, in which the interests of the College and those of the University were deeply concerned, on several occasions were much opposed to one another. In a little while I was surprised by being requested, and in such terms as rendered a refusal impossible, to learn a new profession, to become a soldier, —in short, to take command of the University Rifle Company. That is now ten years ago. Why I should have been chosen, instead of some junior brother of the Senatus Academicus, I do not exactly know. But I have endeavoured to discharge my duty; and you have heard that my endeavours have met with the approval of my superior officer, Colonel Macdonald, —who, however, has been a great deal too kind in the commendation he has expressed of my services; for I find, that among the changes which take place in the progress of life, one loses the promptitude which is necessary for an officer, and which familiarity can alone give. Had I begun at an earlier period of life, I think I should have made myself a more competent captain. In the course of a few years more, by invitation of the authorities of the University of Oxford, acting under the suggestion of my dear old friend, Dr. Acland,—who has done us the honour of coming so far to be amongst us on the present occasion,—I attended the great annual Convocation of that ancient and illustrious University, in order to receive the high honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law. On that occasion I fell into a great mistake. As Dr. Acland will tell you, I stated in public that, as this was the highest and last honour I should receive, so was it the last and highest I should covet. The latter part of the prophecy has been fulfilled, because it was an

easy matter for me to shun the sin of covetousness in myself. But the former part has not been fulfilled, because I could not control the virtue of generosity on the part of my friends. And, accordingly, it was not long before I was waited on by another old and dear friend, my colleague, Dr. Maclagan; who peremptorily ordered me, on the part of a numerous body of my University friends, to go to our distinguished sculptor, Mr. Brodie, and be converted into a marble bust for our University Library Hall. The bust has been executed, and was, as you know, inaugurated last spring by an assemblage of many friends, of whom a great number are present now also. This, as I stated at that time, is an honour certainly seldom paid. I do not know that in the course of our whole University history a professor was ever before introduced into our hall in the marble form during his lifetime. But not only was this most unusual favour bestowed upon me; my friends on that occasion were so numerous as to be able to present my family, not with a copy, but with a duplicate by the artist himself. I now thought that there was nothing left for me to covet. But, in a short time, the Council of our Royal Society resolved to put me in nomination for the vacant office of its President,—the highest scientific office in Scotland. I had my misgivings in accepting it. But at last I could see that the honour was offered me not so much on account of my position in science, as for the great love, the long and lasting love, I had borne towards the Society, and the services I had rendered it, with good will and all the ability in my power, in several subordinate offices. This was not the end, but I am coming very near the end, of the honours I have owed to your good opinion. A still greater surprise than this was the intimation made to me last autumn, that it was the desire of the Prime Minister to recommend to her Majesty that I should receive a title of hereditary rank. I can assure you that was a distinction which never had entered into my thoughts. I am afraid I behaved rather foolishly on the occasion. But the result was, that on deliberation, and by the advice of good friends, I am what I am. Few perhaps are aware of the peculiarity of the honour thus conferred on me. My name has not been a family name until now in any part of Scotland. But more than this.

There is reason to suppose that my first progenitor in Scotland was one of those piratical rogues who long ago used to come across from Scandinavia to plunder this land; for the name, not a common one in Scotland, is chiefly met with on the east coast, and it is very common in all Scandinavia, in a slightly modified form in Denmark and Sweden, but spelled exactly as I spell it in Norway; and I have taken the trouble to inquire and ascertain that it is not a family name even there. Therefore the honour recently bestowed upon me by her Majesty is peculiarly gratifying, in as much as I am able to say that for the first time the name of Christison has become the name of a family.

And now, my Lords and Gentlemen, I come to the last, most unusual, and crowning honour which has been paid to me on the present occasion. I do not well know how to speak of it, it is so very rare and unusual. It is an honour which has never been conferred before in the history of the University of Edinburgh, because it never could have been conferred before. Many professors have done it good service for a long period of years. On looking over our list, I find that, during the nearly three centuries that the University has existed, fourteen professors have acted for at least forty years. Of those, four lived during last century; and it is remarkable that ten have lived in the present century, and partly indeed in my own time, all of them. Dr. Hope very nearly made out the full term, having served forty-nine years.* Professor Jameson alone attained the full period of fifty years, outliving it by twenty days. But it was impossible to render him such an honour as this, because in his latter years,—and he attained a great age,—he was frail, and unable to encounter such a meeting; and, besides, he was unable to continue on duty during his fifty years of service, his class having been taught by another for the session before his death. Therefore I am the only professor, during the entire history of our University, who has done active service, without a break for a single session, during a period of fifty years. I have been subject indeed, though seldom, to little interruptions from illness, but never before so long as lately, when I was on this account ten days off duty. If I fail at present

* Dr. Hope received a similar compliment when he had served as Professor for fifty years; but part of that time he passed as Professor at Glasgow.

to show that integrity of powers which the Lord Justice-General has assigned to me, I beg you will ascribe it to my convalescence being not quite complete.

To celebrate my success in reaching the fiftieth year of my Professorship you have kindly assembled here,—men of various ranks, of all professions, and from all quarters. My own old pupils are naturally very numerous among you, and they represent my profession from very distant parts of the kingdom. Besides Dr. Duckworth, Dr. Halley, and Dr. Davy, deputed for the purpose by the Edinburgh University Club of London, Dr. Wilson has come from so great a distance as Inverness, Dr. Shand from Kirkcudbright; and Ireland is represented by Dr. Moore of Belfast. Not to detain you by any farther enumeration, I believe I may safely say that Edinburgh has seldom seen such an assemblage of men of distinction in literature and science and the learned professions, as I now see before me.

How then am I to return in adequate terms my thanks for this singular honour, unprecedented in the history of our University? I am sure I know not,—unless I could point out, in requital of the favour shown to me, how another may also succeed in winning it;—and that is a matter of some difficulty. For, in the first place, one must be born with a good deal of good luck. Then it must be admitted to be a mighty advantage to have a father of greater talents, greater acquirements, both literary and scientific, and greater virtues, than one's own. By such a father my studies were carefully directed and watched, but without interference with the details. By his direction I underwent a complete course of university instruction for four years in the Faculty of Arts, before I even thought what my profession was to be. My first choice, indeed, was not medicine. But, for my medical education, my previous training in literature, philosophy, and physical science, gave me precious advantages; so that, from my own experience, I heartily wish that every medical student could in the first instance undergo a full course of instruction in Arts.

I had finished my second year of medical study only for a few months, when a hole, which I could exactly fit, became empty, in consequence of an older companion, who was physician's

resident assistant in the Royal Infirmary, being seized with the fever, which was then epidemic. I took his place, and for two years and a half I acted partly as physician's assistant, partly as house-surgeon,—enjoying opportunities of becoming intimately acquainted with the practice of physic and practice of surgery, such as, I do believe, are not to be found in the same perfection at any other medical school—certainly, at least, not in this country at that time. To this instruction, indeed, I ascribe greatly my subsequent success in life. I then resorted for nearly eighteen months, as the Lord Justice-General has told you, to London and Paris,—to St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, for farther instruction in medical practice, and to Paris to study the higher walks of practical chemistry under M. Robiquet. When I was about to leave Paris the death took place of Dr. Gregory, then our Professor of the Practice of Physic, the foremost of all lecturers that I ever heard, and a man of wonderful acquirements in pure literature, as well as in medical science. His death led to successive promotions within the University; the result of which was, that the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence became vacant. Here again was a hole empty in the nick of time, and which it was thought by my friends that I might fit; so that I was proposed as a candidate in my absence. The competition was carried on keenly for very many months; and you may guess how much was known of medical jurisprudence at that time, when I tell you that not one of the candidates possessed any practical knowledge of chemistry but myself. Nor was this advantage the real cause of my eventual success. The cause was quite different. It so happened that when I came into the world, the first person on whom my infant eyes were opened, was a little boy of eleven, who resided with my father as his pupil. Had Guy Mannering stumbled into my father's house at the moment, as he did into Ellangowan Castle, and had he proceeded to cast my nativity, he would have seen that this little boy was an important object on my horoscope; for this boy continued to be my warm friend all his life; became a Lord of the British Admiralty; was so at a most critical time for me, when the last Lord Melville was First Lord of the Admiralty, and dispenser of almost the whole Crown patronage in Scotland; and, throwing his weight into the

scale at a fortunate moment, was the immediate cause of my becoming Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. My early acquaintance with this little boy was therefore the making of my fortunes. At all events, without him it is plain that you and I could not have met here this evening.

I must not presume to follow the same ground which the Lord Justice-General has traversed in giving an account of my university life. But there is a point I may notice, for the consideration of others whose position may be similar to mine. From first to last I have made my university office my main and primary object. I did so while I was Professor of Medical Jurisprudence. I continued to do so when I was translated to the Chair of Materia Medica. On that occasion I was strongly recommended by friends, to whose opinion I could not but feel and yield great deference, to take advantage of the notoriety which attended that appointment, and "lay myself out," as it is said, for physician's practice. But I determined to make my new Chair my primary object, and let physician's practice look after itself,—and perhaps come in the course of time. For many years Materia Medica, and in connection with it Clinical Medicine, were my sole occupation. As I proceeded I schemed an undertaking, which, unfortunately, I have not been able to carry through. This was no less than to investigate the untrodden field of Therapeutic Physiology. I began it, and soon obtained results which greatly encouraged me to persevere with it. But, unluckily for me, the success of the newly founded University College and King's College in London, the subsequent foundation of the Queen's Colleges in Ireland, and a prohibitory regulation of the College of Surgeons of Dublin, which prevented Irish students from frequenting the University of Edinburgh as they had previously done, so seriously reduced my income by the reduction of our medical students, that it became no longer possible for me to bear the expense of what was to be a costly and very long inquiry; and at that time the University possessed no fund as now for aiding professors in defraying their class expenses. At the same time, physician's practice, coming of itself, relieved me from all pecuniary difficulty; but, on the other hand, consumed my whole disposable time. I shall ever regret my disappointment. Thera-

peutic Physiology is a splendid and still little trodden field, without the cultivation of which we shall never make any material advances in the knowledge of the Actions of Remedies, and their real uses in disease. I can easily see that it abounds in future discoveries, which I must leave, but with a strong recommendation to pursue them, to my successors; of whom, I am glad to say, I know several amply able, and also disposed, to undertake the task.

Before concluding, I beg to be allowed to allude to another subject, rather incidental than in the natural course of what I have to say on the present occasion, but of great importance to us all as interested in the universities of our native land. In the course of my professional life I have seen many changes in the University of Edinburgh. I have shaken hands with 105 professors. I have seen nine new chairs established. Above all, I have seen its new constitution granted to it, which we owe in part to the intentions and plans of the learned Judge on my right hand when he was Lord Advocate, and partly to his successsor in office, now at the head of our law courts, and chairman of this meeting, who carried the measure through Parliament, and afterwards organised all the details. Since then the University of Edinburgh has been flourishing in a wonderful way. Twelve years ago our students were reduced greatly in numbers,—in my own faculty to 420; but they have steadily increased since, so that the medical students this year somewhat exceed 600, and the number in all the faculties reaches 1800. Owing greatly to the University now governing itself, fresh spirit has been instilled into every branch of it; and our steadily increasing numbers must be, in part at least, ascribed to the increased ardour and zeal with which teaching is thus carried on. In part, too, our success is owing to the additional means which have been gradually provided during the period in question for encouraging education in all branches, but particularly in the Faculty of Arts. I may give you some idea of this by mentioning that during the last twelve years, in endowments for professorships, scholarships, bursaries, and prizes, chiefly in that Faculty, we have received, partly in capital sums, partly in fixed annual contributions, what represents a total capital of £100,000. But amidst this great

prosperity we are threatened with farther constitutional changes, and changes of very doubtful wisdom. It is no secret that a scheme is brewing for converting the universities of Scotland into mere schools for teaching, and to transfer their individual rights of graduating to an independent board, which is to do nothing but examine. I would ask all of you, and all Scotsmen who have any influence in regard to the question thus raised, to consider well to what an elevation the universities of Scotland have been raised under a constitution which most of them have long enjoyed, and how that constitution possesses such freedom and elasticity as to adapt itself easily to changes required in the lapse of time—and without any organic revolution. On this theme I could say a great deal. But I could add very little to what has been said by our member in Parliament, Dr. Lyon Playfair, in his address delivered in Edinburgh on 31st January, and since published. That address is, in my opinion, the most masterly and most important production that has appeared in this country for many years on the subject of the higher walks of education. I ask all of you who have not yet perused it to study it well; for no one can do so without being convinced that the modern fancy in England for accomplishing instruction by examinations, rather than by systematic education, and for separating teaching from the duty of examining and the honour of graduating, is a very dubious measure indeed—I may even say, a fatal mistake. I hope that strenuous measures will be taken to protect the universities of Scotland from so deadly a transformation.

I must now bring my reply to an end. Again let me thank this company for the very high honour conferred on me. I need not say it is an honour which I never can forget in my lifetime; for that now cannot be long. But it is an honour which shall never be forgotten in my family — an heirloom which will descend to my successors, and will rank with them as one of the highest. In reference to this allusion, permit me to mention another rather singular instance of good luck. This 23d of February happens to be also the birthday of one who, if he lives, is destined to be my successor one day in the honour which has been conferred upon me. My eldest son is a medical officer in

the Indian service, and his only son is a little boy who this day is two years old. For myself, and my family, and among them for this little boy, I return you all my most grateful thanks.

The reply was followed by the quartet—"Fill the Shining Goblet."—(Parry.)

Lord Ardmillan—Before proposing the toast with which I have the honour of being entrusted, permit me to express the sincere pleasure with which I join in this well-merited tribute to my friend Sir Robert Christison.

The toast which I have to propose is, "The Church,"—an expression which may be very wide and comprehensive, or very precise and particular. I have not been informed of the meaning intended, but I am quite ready and happy to propose it in either aspect, with hearty good-will, and in sincerity and simplicity.

Taking the expression in its widest meaning, as comprehending all the branches of the Christian Church, it is a privilege to propose or to accept the toast. To that Universal Catholic Church we must all turn with reverence, and earnestly desire for her all possible success in that which should be the great end and aim of all our churches—the exposition of Scriptural doctrine, the proclamation of Gospel grace, and the enforcement of Christian duty. It were easy to assume a tone and air of serene neutrality, to look calmly down on all differences, considering all Churches equally right, or, perhaps, equally wrong. But that I cannot do. I consider earnestness and depth of conviction to be elements at once of power and of purity, elevating and purifying, as well as sustaining and intensifying, every good effort; and I think indifference is a weak foundation for Christian building, and a bad soil for the raising of Christian fruits. Rather do I suggest to you, as men not indifferent but earnest, the privilege and the happiness of forgetting, on this and all opportune occasions, the points on which we conscientiously differ, and thoughtfully, hopefully, and lovingly remembering the points—higher yet deeper—on which we all, as Christians, agree.

But I have no hesitation in proposing the toast in its more limited meaning, and in special application to the Church established by law in Scotland, and coupled with the health of my

reverend friend Mr. Stevenson of St. George's, the Moderator of the General Assembly, and my nearest neighbour in Charlotte Square, where, under the shadow of his dome, I, a Free Churchman and a Nonconformist, have the privilege of living in peace and tranquillity. As I have already said, my own convictions are deep and earnest, and time has made them clearer to my mind, and stamped them deeper on my heart. But I never express or cherish any feelings but those of respectful kindness towards the Church, and good-will towards the members of the Church, which I quitted, in which I have many old and dear friends, and some very near relatives. Some of these friends are now present, and my eye now falls on one of the oldest and dearest friends I have ever had, the gentleman who now worthily fills the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence in which Sir Robert Christison was planted on the day of which this is the anniversary and jubilee.

Therefore, while adhering steadfastly to my own convictions, I frankly tender my best wishes for the true interests of the Established Church. In regard to her relation to the State, and the schools, and the other churches, there are differences of opinion. To these I do not allude. But, for everything which can contribute to sustain and promote her purity, fidelity, and efficiency, as an Evangelical Christian Church, she has my sincere wishes; and from everything tending to injure her in these respects I hope she may be delivered.

I have much pleasure in associating with the toast the health of Mr. Stevenson, for whom personally I have great regard, and who is most appropriately coupled with my toast, as at once the Moderator of the General Assembly, and the pastor of Sir Robert Christison.

It appears to me that there is something specially appropriate in a Scottish Lawyer proposing this toast. Whatever the Church may owe to the Law, I cannot doubt that the Law owes much to the Church.

In the Chairman of this meeting, at once the Lord President of our Courts and the Chancellor of the University, whom we have had such pleasure in hearing, and under whom it is my pride and happiness to serve, we see the son of a distinguished

Scottish Minister. In the Lord Justice-Clerk we see the grandson of a distinguished Scottish Minister. In the front rank of the Bar we see the Solicitor-General, and Mr. Watson, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Asher,—all worthy sons of the Manse. Surely, therefore, the prosperity of the Church should be heartily desired by the Legal Profession, to which the Church has made such valuable contribution of her sons.

The Right Rev. R. H. STEVENSON said—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—It is with much pleasure that I rise on the present occasion to return thanks for the toast of "The Church," which has been so eloquently proposed by Lord Ardmillan, and so warmly received by this large and distinguished company. And in doing so I may be allowed to say, in a word or two, that I entirely concur with my friend in the distinction which he has drawn between the Church, viewed as the aggregate number of all true believers in Christ, and the Church, when that term is applied, as it most frequently is, to some particular branch of the Church of Christ. It is only right and becoming that we should acknowledge true Christian worth wherever it exists, and that no miserable prejudice, either in favour of our own denomination or against other denominations, should be allowed to foster the belief, that one's own Church enjoys a monopoly of all that is true and good in the religion of the country, and that all others are steeped in error and sin. There are, I believe, good men in all Christian Churches, and these all equally form part of the body of Christ. Most cordially and gratefully do I acknowledge that the Great Shepherd has many sheep which are not of the fold to which I belong, and all these are counted by Him as members of the great flock; and holding these views, I beg, in the first place, in name of the Church Universal, to return you my best thanks for the compliment you have paid her.

And now, my Lord, with reference to the second half of the toast, which is more personal to myself—the Church in particular, to which Lord Ardmillan devoted a large portion of his remarks. I hope I shall be excused for saying that the Church of Scotland is not unworthy either of the compli-

mentary terms in which his Lordship spoke of her position in this country, or of the good wishes for her usefulness and prosperity to which he gave expression. I have no desire at any time unduly to magnify the National Church; and, least of all, would I dream of doing so in the presence of gentlemen, not a few of whom conscientiously differ from her on several questions, some of which are regarded as involving points of very considerable importance. At the same time, I feel at liberty to say that any one who takes an intelligent and unprejudiced view of her Constitution, as that is to be seen in her Confession and other authorised formularies—any one who takes an intelligent view of her Organisation for carrying out the designs and objects of a Church as that is to be seen in her various courts—in her provisions for the training of an educated and pious ministry—in her pulpit instructions and public worship, and in the pastoral visitations of her ministers,—any one who is properly acquainted with the care, and wisdom, and means with which, from the first day of her existence, she has fostered and guarded the Education of the young,—any one who knows that in addition to the Parochial Schools, for which the country is mainly indebted to her zeal in the cause of education, the Church, through the liberality of her members, has called into existence about two thousand other schools, all on the same principle as the Parish Schools, in order to meet the wants of overgrown town populations and outlying districts in large Highland parishes,—any one, I say, who can thus look into the constitution and the organisation of the Church, and who can review the history of her operations and influence in connection with education as well as with religion—no matter what his political opinions may be—no matter what may be the branch of the Church of Christ to which he belongs,—such an one can hardly fail to feel that the Church of Scotland is an honour, even as she has also proved to be a distinguished blessing, to the people of this country.

To say that there may be defects or faults in the Church of Scotland is only saying what her best friends freely admit; but that is only saying what, in all probability, is applicable, more or less, to every other church under heaven. But whatever may be her faults, it is very gratifying to me, more especially at pre-

sent, holding as I have the honour to do, her highest and most representative office, to find that in a great and influential meeting like this, there is a disposition to overlook them, at least for the time, and to look rather at her excellences; and it was particularly gratifying to me to hear her so kindly spoken of by my friend Lord Ardmillan, who is known to be an ardent Free-churchman. Nor was this gratification diminished, but rather enhanced, by the circumstance, that before his Lordship concluded his eloquent address, he was able to assure us that his respect for the Church of Scotland, and desire for her welfare, were in no way incompatible with his fidelity to those principles to which, as a Free-churchman, he conscientiously adheres. This looks like a guarantee for his continued good-will; and it seems to me to encourage the belief that he, and the large and influential religious community of which he is a most distinguished member, would be better pleased if the Church were to succeed in ridding herself of all her defects and blemishes, and in recovering lost strength, than if her enemies were to succeed in effecting her destruction; in which view, it is not a matter beyond all hope that circumstances may yet arise in which all the grounds of our differences may be swept away, and a path opened up for the union of many who at present reluctantly stand apart from one another.

Before sitting down, I beg to be allowed to express the great pleasure with which, in common with all present, I have come here this evening, to offer to my friend, Sir Robert Christison, my most hearty congratulations. For nearly thirty years (how long before I became minister I cannot say) he has been a constant and regular worshipper in St. George's Church, and for about twenty of these years he has been a member of my kirk-session, discharging, in so far as the labours of his profession and professorship, and those arduous and unceasing studies which you, my Lord, have so well described, permitted, the duties of that humble, and yet honourable and most useful office; and so, few of his friends have had better means of observing than I have had, and few accordingly are better qualified than I am to bear testimony to, the high sense of what is just, and truthful, and honourable, which has uniformly marked all his intercourse both with his brethren and with society in general. In like manner I

desire to speak, as it most properly becomes me to do, of the deep reverence, both for God and divine truth, with which he engages in celebrating the rites and services of our holy religion. Sir, I feel it to be an honour that we have on the roll of our office-bearers the name of one who has combined in his person an enthusiastic and a lifelong pursuit of science, with a humble and sincere allegiance to his God, and a confiding reliance on the truth of his Word; and there is not one of these office-bearers, most of whom, I believe, are present here this evening, or of the numerous congregation to which he belongs, who does not rejoice at the honour conferred on him by her Majesty, and who does not heartily congratulate him on having, with unimpaired mental and bodily powers, attained to the fiftieth anniversary of his professorship.

Alexander Halley, Esq., M.D., Honorary Treasurer of the Edinburgh University Club, London, said—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen: The toast with which I have been honoured and entrusted *is*, "Prosperity to the University of Edinburgh, and to the Sister Universities of Scotland, of England, and of Ireland—*Tria juncta in Uno*." In the few remarks which, at this *early* hour of *to-morrow* morning! I shall venture to make, I cannot enter into the distinctions characteristic of *each* of our great Universities; but I may briefly remark that each has an *individuality* peculiarly its own—each differing from the other—all having their good and distinguishing points. This individuality is of great value; it gives independence of character, and maintains originality of thought and intellect in *each* University, and it is of the utmost importance that it should be in no way diminished. It conduces to that generous spirit of chivalric rivalry, not overt, yet emulative, exercising, almost unconsciously, a marked wholesome influence upon the members and undergraduates. The *City* of Edinburgh, I need not tell *you*, my Lords and Gentlemen, has a "*genus loci*" of its own. The *University* of Edinburgh partakes largely of the same spirit. Men who have imbibed their intellectual nourishment in its celebrated school have their *hearts* imbued with that "*perfervidum ingenium*" which our southern neighbours hold to be characteristic of *Scots*men! Well, "*sit perpetuo*." Long may

the sons of the University of Edinburgh so venerate their *Alma Mater!* But the University of Edinburgh is remarkable also as being the most *cosmopolitan* University in Great Britain, if not in the world. This is a most noteworthy characteristic. Men from *all* countries flock to her celebrated school. She is largely supported and nourished by our colonies, and in America the degrees of the Edinburgh University are held in marked reverence. She has something to *teach* the other Universities; but, on the other hand, she may also *learn* from them. From the *old* English Universities Edinburgh may copy something of the advanced spirit of scholarship, refinement, and tone; also a lesson in academic and undergraduate discipline. The *new* London University may be taken as a type of the new theory of "University" status, and can only be an example of ultra impartiality in examination methods. It was my purpose to have drawn your attention to the excellent pamphlet just issued by the talented member for the united Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews; but this has been already so admirably done by the worthy guest of this evening, that I will simply urge you to protest against, and do your utmost to oppose, that *spirit of centralisation* to control education and the distribution of its honours and degrees, now so prominent a feature in the policy of the Government. It is a policy destructive of the individual independence, and of the development of originality of thought and intellect, in the long-established, noble, and successful Universities of this country. My Lords and Gentlemen, in connection with the toast which I have the honour to propose, I beg to associate with the University of Edinburgh the name of Sir Alexander Grant, its Principal, whose well-known classical and general acquirements have so pre-eminently fitted him to occupy the high position which he has so worthily and usefully filled. And with the *English* Universities I beg to couple the name of Professor Acland—the very backbone of the Oxford school, the elegant scholar, the accomplished physician and man of taste, the very type of an English University Professor—in fact, speaking of him geologically, I may designate him a noble "*Devonian*" representative of the *Scottish* "Old Red Sandstone!"

Principal Sir A. Grant said—My Lords and Gentlemen : In the genial atmosphere of this evening, when so many academical associations have been revived, and in so goodly an assemblage of the most distinguished sons of many universities, it is peculiarly gratifying to respond to the toast which you have now kindly honoured. But I rejoice to think that acknowledgments on the part of the great sister universities of the United Kingdom will be made by my eminent and accomplished friend Professor Acland, and I will only detain you by a very few words on behalf of the University of Edinburgh. The occasion on which we are met suggests considerations of chronology ; and, looking forward as well as back, I am reminded that in ten years from this time those of us who are spared will be called upon to celebrate the conclusion of another era, and I confidently trust that in that celebration our dear and honoured guest of this evening will take a prominent part. I mean the celebration of the tercentenary of the foundation of the University of Edinburgh. When that day comes, and the academic annals of three hundred years are reviewed, it will be remarked that the professorial career of Sir Robert Christison has been coeval with more than one-sixth of the whole period of the University's existence. But it may also be borne in mind that the chief glory of this University has been its great medical school, and that that school has at present existed less than one hundred and fifty years, the Medical Faculty having been first established in 1723. Sir Robert Christison's professoriate, therefore, spans a period,—and a most distinguished period,—which constitutes more than one-third of the history of this world-famous medical school. How great his services to that school have been, by scientific discovery, by unwearied diligence in teaching, by wise counsel, and by the virtuous and noble example of his life, it is not for me to attempt to point out. But surely his name will ever be associated with it. I speak of that great school with pride, but I confess that I sometimes think of it with apprehension. The presence of our friend, Professor Allen Thomson, reminds me of the magnificent buildings, especially for the purposes of medical teaching, which, mainly at his instance, the liberality of the citizens of Glasgow has raised for the University of the West. As a Scotsman I rejoice at this

splendid achievement, so favourable to the advance of science in our country; but as a man of Edinburgh I should regret to think that the Metropolitan University of Scotland, and especially the Medical School of this city, was doomed to eclipse, and forced to sink into a secondary place, by reason of the superior advantages in all the means and appliances of teaching, now undoubtedly possessed by the Sister University of Glasgow. But I trust that this fate may be averted, that the patriotism and public spirit of Eastern Scotland may come forth to our aid, and that sufficient external resources may be given us in the shape of theatres and class-rooms adequate for the modern ideas of scientific teaching, so as to enable us, in this respect at all events, to compete on fair terms with our honoured rivals. I trust that this may be done, and that the tercentenary of our University and the close of Sir Robert Christison's career may be marked, not by the impending decline of the Medical School of Edinburgh, but rather by its material expansion, and by a fresh commencement of its career under increasingly happy auspices.

Professor ACLAND, of Oxford, said—No one, but for the special kindness of your manner of receiving this toast, could venture to address you at this time of night on the subject of the Sister Universities of Great Britain. Yet, being by their great favour attached to four of them besides my own, as an honorary graduate, I dare not refrain from saying a few words on a subject of grave national importance. It must be felt by all thinking men that, in the restless, I will not say excited, state of political and religious thought in our nation, the conduct of the higher education of the next generation is a subject of supreme consequence. It is now far from being settled. You have already heard mentioned to-night, and probably many of this distinguished company have read, Dr. Lyon Playfair's remarkable and outspoken address to the Philosophical Institution of Edinburgh. It is a document which demands the serious attention, not only of those engaged in education, but of all public men concerned with large political questions. I will endeavour very shortly to express my reasons for saying this, by relating to you a trait of our esteemed guest. Eighteen months since, as a member of

the Royal Sanitary Commission, I was in need of the wise counsel of my colleague, and came to Scotland to seek an interview. I found him at Lochgoilhead. You know the locality. Well, next day he decided—mind he was over three score years and ten—to walk me up Ben Ihm. He beat me hollow. As we went he discoursed on everything we saw, "from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop that grows on the wall;" every living thing was as his familiar friend. When we reached the summit a pocket sextant was produced; measurements were to be taken of disputed Ordnance distances from Mull and from Egg, round the Paps of Jura, down to Ailsa Craig. It was bitterly cold, but he stayed to perform gymnastic exercises in mental arithmetic, upon sines and upon angles. We then descended, discussing every geological question, Plutonic or Neptunian, Huttonian or Wernerian, till we reached home again.

Next day, happily for the Southron, it was wet and stormy, so that no other height could be attempted. I had often sat before him in the class-room,—now I was to sit behind him as number three in a four-oar to his stroke, his two good sons, now with you, pulling two and four; he led us miles down the loch and back again as a refresher before dinner, and as a prelude to a long evening's work on the details of a stiff sanitary memorandum, afterwards published in the Sanitary Report.

And now, what has this to do with the Sister Universities? It illustrates the make and character of a true man. They are this kind of men that the Sister Universities, for the love of the country, should aim to produce. What brought us all here to-night, from all manner of distances, to entertain our guest—me by the mail train last night, to return by to-morrow night, as I would have gladly done through a much longer journey had need been? Not the baronetcy—not the busts—not the pictures—not all the distinctions, nor all the honours—but the WHOLE CHARACTER OF THE MAN. It is not his intellect—not his knowledge—not his heart—but the combination of them, that make him what he is. It is force of the intellect, and warmth of affections and fineness of moral nature, in the same persons, that the nation wants. And how have these been brought out in him? Do you think he has been worried through life by competitive examinations, or driven

to his work along some special groove? No. A free and willing student fifty years ago, he is a free and willing student now. He has lived among fellow-students, and for them; he has lived, in cheery contest with compeers, a strong manly University life. I have alluded to examinations. I say again—Read Lyon Playfair's paper. The dangers are becoming grave enough. I see men drawn aside from the proper end of education as I have endeavoured to illustrate it, teachers and students alike, to prepare exclusively for what is likely to be asked by some particular examiners.

And oftentimes with what result? Twenty men will compete for one honour or place of emolument; that is, twenty men are diverted from steady work to the doubtful gain of a forced march; the nineteen who fail have suffered from distracting pressure. Not seldom the twentieth were better without his success. But into all this I cannot enter in detail—I have detained you too long. I venture only to say that, as thought now is, as the nation, as the world now are, let the Sister Universities see to it that they strive above all things to make men of character—men complete, and not one-sided—neither athletes nor bookworms—but strong, free, complete men. Let all who are moved by patriotism remember the overwhelming importance to those who are of middle age, or past it, that we should look on, not ten, not twenty years, but further still, to see what the youth of our nation shall be then; and when we want an example, where more fitly shall we find one than in the person of our guest, whom grateful pupils and affectionate friends so cordially entertain this night.

On behalf of the Universities, as far as I may, and for myself, most deeply I thank you.

Here followed the quartet—"Das Kirchlein."—(Becker.)

The Lord Justice-Clerk proposed the toast of "Science," taking occasion to express shortly the great pleasure he had in taking part in this great commemoration, and the great admiration and respect he had for their guest of that evening. He had nothing to add except his hearty sympathy with all that had been said. He took the opportunity of saying that, having

sat for three years in the University Court, he could attest, from a kind of experience he could have gained in no other place, the incalculable and invaluable services which Sir Robert Christison rendered to the University in his capacity of member of that Court. Armed at all points, never failing in counsel, with unvarying moderation, magnanimity, and temper, lucky was the university whose affairs were ruled over by a man like him. He proposed "Science," coupled with the name of the distinguished votary to whom science owed a great deal—he meant Sir William Thomson. He was desirous of hearing from one who he conceived would be an authority on the subject, if the apprehensions of a disaster to our world by its contact with the promised comet on the 12th August next were founded on anything else than a wild speculation.

Professor Sir Wm. Thomson said—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—Being called upon to answer for "Science," I feel bound in the first place to say what I can to mitigate, if I cannot altogether relieve, the anxiety to which the Lord Justice-Clerk has referred. First, I may say that to the best of my knowledge no "professor" of science, not even the worst of the alarmists among us, allows less than a good many years before the earth shall fall into the sun, or the sun become cold. We may feel perfect confidence that the earth will not be seriously disturbed by collision before the end of the present year. The editor of the *Scotsman* has done well to lay in a supply of coal for several quarters. The augmenting price of coal to which he refers must go on, except possible temporary recessions, until the supply is exhausted.

Guesses and arbitrary speculations do not constitute science. Its life and soul is hard work. The story of Sir Robert Christison's fifty years of professional life, which we have heard this evening, admirably illustrates the patient perseverance by which alone solid advances in science are made. Few men occupied with professions find much spare energy for the cultivation of science, even though neither inclination nor ability be wanting. Sir Robert Christison, occupied with a most arduous profession, the practice of which alone was more than labour enough for

most men, devoted himself with incessant and unwearying zeal to the advancement of the scientific principles and discoveries on which it is founded. *His* relaxation was work in some other department of science. I shall never forget meeting him on the Albert Pier at Greenock last September, and finding him engrossed with deep-sea thermometry. His vacation was devoted to determining the temperature at the bottom of Loch Lomond. Valuable and important results of his observations on this point have been made the subject of a communication with which he opened the business of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for the present session.

I hoped that at so late a period of the evening I should have had nothing more to say than thank you for drinking the health of Science; but I have heard things said to-night upon which I cannot keep silence. I have listened with deep and anxious interest to what Dr. Halley has said regarding the independence of Universities, and Professor Acland regarding competitive examinations. Very much of the solid advances made by science within the last two hundred years is due to the independent action of our national Universities. Discoveries made by investigators in all parts of the world have been taught first in the Universities; and, after having been for many years so taught, have gradually found their way into the elementary text-books. The scheme favoured by two eminent statesmen, of substituting a central examining board for the independent examinations of the different Universities, would give degrees, honours, and substantial rewards, to those candidates only who answer according to the books. The true University student could earn but few marks of the examiners, and in entering life would be put behind others of less cultivated minds, and with knowledge less useful for the business of the world. The text-books themselves would become worse instead of better. Manuals adapted for examination purposes would supersede books faithfully representing science. Even the University teaching would necessarily in time suffer a corresponding deterioration. For the system of multitudinous examination, nothing is so inconvenient as scientific progress. As the present race of professors die out they would be followed by men who would take care not to

disturb the existing programme of examination subjects by fresh discoveries, and who would devote themselves with single-minded industry, not to cultivate and strengthen the minds of their students, not to teach them what is true or what is new in science, not to give them knowledge which in their after-life would be power to themselves and their country, but to train them to write rapidly for marks in the great central examination. When a party of British mandarins, sixty years hence, grateful to the origin of their official posts and incomes, meet to celebrate the jubilee of their crammer, "Science" will not be on the list of toasts.

Sir William Stirling-Maxwell—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—The lateness of the hour renders it impossible for me even to enter on so large a subject as the "Progress of Literature." But at a meeting in honour of so distinguished a writer as our honoured guest, it is a toast which cannot be omitted. Eminent amongst men of science, Sir Robert Christison is likewise remarkable for the literary skill with which he has placed before the world the results of his observation and research. The celebrated work, to which our Chairman has alluded, apart from its scientific value, is admirable for the manner of its execution. The chapters on Medical Jurisprudence may be well studied by the non-professional readers for the grace and charm of their appropriate style. It has been said to-night that one man's meat is another man's poison; and, it may be added, that "Christison on Poison" is a book full of pleasant and wholesome intellectual food for the general reader. The subject of Literature I must leave in the hands of the Professor of Rhetoric and the Belles Lettres, who is so well fitted to represent Literature in any society, and who is no less accomplished in the practice than in the theory of the arts which he professes. In the fields of criticism, especially poetical criticism, few writers have displayed higher and subtler powers of analysis, or in treating of our national poets have been so happy in discovering new beauties in old favourites. Bacon has compared great books to "ships which pass through the vast seas of time, and make ages so distant to participate of the wisdom, inventions, and illumina-

tions, the one of the other." In his "Life and Times of Milton," I venture to predict that the learned Professor has launched one of these ships, which I feel sure you will all now join me in wishing a prosperous voyage and a speedy arrival in port.

Professor MASSON said—It is at once a pleasure and an honour for me to respond to this toast, and I have to thank Sir William Stirling-Maxwell for the generous way in which he has spoken of myself. There are various kinds of literature, and for each kind there is required a special disposition. But it is supposed that there is a general literary temper, which all who practise literature, of whatever kind, have so far in common. All such persons are supposed to live in what is called an ideal world: they have burst away from the crowd into a vacant space, where they can build their own airy castles; they have a craving for elbow-room; they are characterised by a solitary moodiness, which sometimes becomes defiance and recklessness. Be this as it may, one thing is certain. After all, literary men have to be tried by a standard which is universal. Literature is not mere sentence-making; that is a craft which anybody may learn. The worth of any man whose instrument is the pen depends ultimately on the essential manhood, the total amount of ability and goodness, that lies at the back of the instrument. It is also the fact that the highest literary men—the highest even of the poetical and least calculable order—have been distinguished by a strong core of good sense, a prevailing sanity and probity, a power of ruling the utmost rangings of their minds by wisdom and reason. Nor is this consideration out of place here. We are met to do honour to Sir Robert Christison, and this is one of the incidental toasts that cluster round the main one. Well, if there has been recently any man in this city of Edinburgh in whom those around him might see and study what is essential to upright bearing and true success in any walk whatsoever—that "stalk of carl hemp in man" which sustains and endures—that iron something to which mere circumstance must conform, because *it* will not conform to mere circumstance—is not that man Sir Robert? With all his accurate culture, literature has not been his particular walk; nor can we now expect that he will betake

himself to literature. Did we need, however, a real tonic for our present British Literature, a bracing and strengthening influence, might not our wish be that something of Sir Robert Christison's character could be diffused through it and through it, and through it and through it again?

Here followed the Serenade—"Schlummerst du schon."—(Marschner.)

Dr. PATERSON—My Lord Justice-General and Gentlemen—It must be a matter of much gratification to our esteemed guest, as it is to us all,—that so many of his near relatives are enabled to be present this evening, and to join us on this commemorative occasion.

But although we have Sir Robert's two sons, his brother, and cousin, around this table, one is absent—to whom this night's gathering would have been a source of inexpressible joy. I refer to his eldest son, Dr. Alexander Christison of Agra.

Dr. Alexander Christison left this country in 1852, and reached India shortly before the breaking out of the Burmese War. He served with his regiment throughout the campaign in Burmah; and, upon his return, became attached to the famous Gwalior Contingent, with whom he remained until it mutinied, after which he was present at several actions against the mutineers in the vicinity of Agra. He is now settled there as civil surgeon of the district. This office alone would absorb the greater portion of any one's time in the climate of India, and with a population to look after equal if not higher than Edinburgh and its suburbs; but, in addition to this duty, Dr. Alexander Christison is Principal of the Medical College of Agra; he superintends the Lunatic Asylum; he is one of a small body, partly native and partly European, who act as Town-Councillors of the district; and he is also Referee in Medico-legal cases, in the absence of Dr. Thompson, for the North-west Provinces of India. Surely no record can better prove the estimation in which he is held, the high and responsible position he enjoys, and the abnegation of self in such varied and multitudinous duties. This resemblance to his father's early years of professional life, which were marked by great activity and hard study, leaves us no doubt

but that he will prove a worthy descendant of his father's name and honours. But I cannot pass from this without referring to a singular coincidence which has been mentioned to me since entering this room,—that this is the second anniversary of the birth of Dr. Alexander Christison's only son, and our esteemed guest's only grandson; it is truly curious that the anniversary of this child's birth, and the fiftieth of Sir Robert's professorial life, should have occurred on the same day. May it be ominous of great things for the little boy. We have also present with us this evening Mr. John Christison, W.S., the able Secretary of the University Court. Nobody can read without admiration the condensed responses which proceed from that learned body, without feeling that they are delivered somewhat in the form of an oracle,—and that oracle is Mr. John Christison. Of his brother, Dr. David Christison, I would wish only to remark that but for an unfortunate accident, which prevents him engaging actively in medical pursuits or practice, he would have risen to the highest pitch of professional fame, for I know no young man who is more esteemed, and more generally respected and admired for his urbanity and kindness of disposition, than Dr. David Christison.

But, my Lord, there is one present with us this evening to whom these proceedings must have much more than an ordinary interest. I refer to the twin brother of Sir Robert Christison, the Rev. Mr. Alexander Christison of Foulden. It must be a great pleasure for him to be here this evening, and to see the triumph of talent, of perseverance, of integrity of purpose, and of consistency, culminating in honours which few are permitted to enjoy, and which have provided for one so near and dear to him a world-wide reputation and a lasting name.

TOAST.

The relations of Sir R. Christison and the Rev. Alex. Christison of Foulden.

The Rev. ALEX. CHRISTISON—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—I beg, as twin-brother of the guest of the evening, to thank you for the compliment which you have now paid to his kindred. I disclaim all pretensions to the distinction of addressing you, except what arises from the reflected

light of my brother's reputation. But I should be heartily and rightly ashamed of myself were I therefore to be conscious of any feeling of envy or jealousy. We read, indeed, in ancient story of the younger of twin brothers who, in derision, leapt over the wall with which the older was surrounding the seat of his territory; at the time, a speck on the earth's surface; afterwards developed into imperial Rome. It was a barbaric, mean, uncongenial spirit, which prompted the younger brother's leap over the wall; and no doubt it was owing to that wolfish nurture of his, which constitutes an article in our very elastic classical creed. I disclaim all feeling such as or akin to that I have referred to. I hope that the circumstances in which we are met will be my excuse for making bold to say that I yield in gratification to no one, when I see gentlemen of many shades of opinion, many callings, many positions, and many—and some of them far distant—places, met to hail the fiftieth year of my brother's professional life. I yield to no one in the alacrity and fulness with which I bear witness to his intellectual and moral greatness; to his profound, accurate, and varied attainment; to his helping hand in the interest of struggling youthful merit; to his contribution to the standard literature of the healing art; to his activity of body as well as of mind, which threescore years and ten have not affected; and to his application to business, maintained throughout the live-long day, relieved not by its intermission but by its diversity. Once more, my Lords and Gentlemen, I thank you for the good wishes which you have expressed for the relatives of such a man,—friend, physician, teacher, author, and labourer in this "work-a-day world" as my brother has proved himself, and this remarkable festive assemblage vouches him to be.

Professor Maclagan—The subject of my toast is the "Fine Arts—Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture." I do not stop too curiously to inquire whether or not this is an exhaustive catalogue of what may be included under the designation of the Fine Arts, or whether there is a distinct line of demarcation between Art on the one hand, and Literature and Science on the other. If not philosophically correct, this enumeration is at least intelli-

gible; and it has this advantage—that it imposes a wholesome limitation on the speaker.

I assume that the cheers with which we greeted the toasts of Science and Literature were not merely an expression of our admiration of the manner in which these subjects were brought before us, but were an acknowledgment on our part of our sense of the debt which we owe to Science for promoting the progress of our race, and to Literature for our intellectual enjoyment; but however largely these may bulk in our regard, we shall still, I think, find a nook in our affections for the Fine Arts, even if it were on no higher ground than that they yield to us a pure and precious pleasure. Assuredly, whatsoever ministers to this can never fail to merit from us an appreciative consideration. It was not without the design that it should be indulged that our Creator has bestowed upon us the power of observing, and the faculty of appreciating, what is beautiful in Nature and in Art; it was not without the intention of gratifying this faculty that He has scattered with such profusion beauties in every part of the kingdoms of Nature, and that he has endowed so many of our fellow-men with the talent for producing what is beautiful in Art.

A noble power, most enviable by those of us to whom have been denied the imagination to conceive and the dexterity to execute such works. To be able with a flat canvas and some colours to make us, of the present time, as it were, actual spectators of events which have stirred the world and changed the destinies of nations—to introduce us personally to men who have written their names on the page of history—to preserve to us the lineaments of those whom we have honoured for their public usefulness or cherished for their domestic virtues—to enable us to exchange murky town and noisy thoroughfare for the silent beauties of the airy landscape, where we seem to breathe the very freshness of its far-reaching perspective,—this is an achievement of which any man may justly be proud. To be able from the cold hard stone, touched by the harder and colder chisel, to set before us the human form in every phase—here the Laocoon struggling with his serpentine destroyers—here the philosopher, calm and dignified, as he sat and pondered among his books—here the face of infant innocence, pure and spotless as the marble

that represents it—this is a work which any man may well glory in as his own. To be able to erect the noble fane, with its spire pointing heavenwards, its traceries so rich, its pillars so strong, yet to our eye so light, and its whole structure so solemn as to make it a fit temple of Him to whom it is dedicated,—this is, indeed, a vocation which any man may rejoice to call his own. And when we remember that one and all of them at the same time give to their fellow-men a great and a pure pleasure in the contemplation of their works—who shall say that the true artist is not a man to be honoured and esteemed by us? But I should be loath indeed to ground the claims of the Fine Arts on our consideration upon so meagre a plea and so low a platform as that of their contributing to our enjoyment. Art has the higher claim upon us of its being at once the means and the index of a people's advancement in civilisation, and in that more easily understood than defined condition, which we call refinement. Most assuredly Art alone will never either civilise or refine a nation,—there must be higher influences at work to do this; but this we may and must maintain, that wherever we see the works of Art cherished and appreciated, there do we see evidence of a people advancing in civilisation and refinement; and where we see them neglected, or, still worse, ruthlessly destroyed, there have we proof that there is at work the leaven of an unreclaimed barbarism.

It is not, however, in the region of high Art only that benign influences are exerted. The law of art, more comprehensive than that law of which it is said that *de minimis non curat*, takes cognisance of small things as well as great. There is beauty in Nature alike in what is great and what is small. There is beauty in the stately Grampians, when, in the calm sunset of an autumn evening, they put on their robes of imperial purple, but there is also beauty in the "wee modest crimson-tipped flower," "the openin' gowan wat wi' dew;" and so there may and ought to be beauty present, certainly ugliness absent, not only in the higher productions of Art, but in the commonest of our domestic implements. There is no necessity for there being anything ugly in a common milk-jug any more than in the face of a Madonna. The designer who improves some of our manufac-

tures is, in his humbler sphere, an advancer of art and a promoter of civilisation and refinement, as well as the historical painter. When the thrifty housewife, at fair or market, invests in a new milk-jug, and finds that it is within her pecuniary resources to buy one which she thinks prettier than any which she already possesses, she becomes unconsciously, in her own way, a critic and a patron of art, although she does not know what the word art means. It is true that her selection may not be according to the canons which prevail at Kensington; her choice may be one which would throw a connoisseur in Majolica into fits, or make the bones of Bernard de Palissy shudder in his tomb; but she has got something which she prizes, because it is "real bonnie;" and because she prizes and wishes to preserve and enjoy it, she must have her house more clean and tidy and orderly; and thus it may come that the humble designer, working in the potteries of Staffordshire, may be a schoolmaster giving lessons in some of the most useful of domestic virtues to the wife of a peasant in the wilds of Badenoch. Is it not our duty, with all these considerations before us, to express cordially our wishes for the progress of Art in all its branches, and for the prosperity of all who deserve the name of artist?

There remains to me the pleasant duty of connecting this toast with the health of a gentleman whose professional accomplishments and personal character make him universally esteemed. I am certainly not going to indulge, especially in his presence, in any remarks on the works of Sir George Harvey. Adverse criticism you would not tolerate at my hands, unmixed eulogy would be distasteful to his own modest nature. This I am sure I may say, that so long as we Scotchmen, whatever be our ecclesiastical proclivities, look back with pride upon what our forefathers did among the mosses of Drumclog; so long as we Scotchmen remember that the "roarin' game" is *par excellence* our national winter pastime; so long as we Scotchmen take pleasure in contemplating those quiet pastoral scenes where they

> Ca' the yowes to the knowes,
> Ca' them whar the heather grows,
> Ca' them whar the burnie rows—

so long shall we acknowledge Sir George Harvey as a fitting re-

presentative of Scottish Art, and the worthy President of our Scottish Academy.

Sir GEORGE HARVEY said—Mr. President and Gentlemen—In acknowledging the toast which has just been proposed, I trust I may not be considered ungrateful in simply doing so at this late hour; but, believe me, I do very cordially and very sincerely thank you for the manner in which you have responded to the toast of "The Fine Arts," so eloquently moved by Dr. Maclagan.

Mr. CAMPBELL SWINTON said—My Lord Justice-General, my Lords and Gentlemen—The toast which has been assigned to me is probably intended, primarily, as an acknowledgment of the unanimity, with which men, eminent in every department of national enterprise, have united in this well-merited tribute of respect and admiration for our distinguished guest. But, on broader grounds, it is surely but fitting that, with the tributes which have been so eloquently paid to Science, Literature, and Art, there should be combined some recognition of that important element in this country's greatness, which covers every sea with her ships, and enriches the inhabitants of every clime with the products of her looms and her forges. We are proud of our philosophers, our authors, and our artists. May we not also exult in the intelligence, the integrity, and not unfrequently the success which distinguish the British merchant? It is true that in this city commerce scarcely occupies so prominent a place, as has been asserted for themselves by what I may call our staple commodities—Education and Law—over both of which you, my Lord, so worthily preside. But I am much mistaken if even our venerable University, of which our esteemed guest has for so long a period been so bright an ornament, does not, in addition to the more important ends which it serves, possess a commercial value, laying the inhabitants of Edinburgh under the deepest obligations by the material benefits which it confers on their city. And if this be so, nobly have the sons of commerce acknowledged their share of the debt. I allude not merely to those munificent benefactions for the advancement of the higher learning which, here and elsewhere,

have been made by them, and by none more liberally than by an honourable Baronet, the extent of whose generosity is not publicly known, only because he is one of those who

"Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame."

But I would refer also to that noble measure of educational reform and extension which Edinburgh owes to the enlightened wisdom of her Merchant Company, guided by the zeal and ability of its late Master. And we all know what valuable aid he received in this good work from the exercise of the same qualities on the part of his eminent successor in the chair of the Company, my friend Mr. Knox. Of him I will only say that he is a man

"With the heart of a lion, the voice of a lark."

and that it thus happens that he is equally distinguished for the energy with which he devotes himself to the promotion of the best interests of his fellow-citizens, and for the melody with which he can charm the ears and move the hearts of all who are privileged to encounter him at the social board. My toast, my Lord, is Commerce, coupled with the name of the Master of the Merchant Company, Mr. Knox.

Mr. Thomas Knox said—I wish I were able adequately to reply to the toast so eloquently proposed by the learned Professor. This much I may say, however, that I am sincerely grateful for the kind remarks he has made in regard to the Merchant Company and myself, and so will my colleagues in office be, when I have the opportunity of informing them. I ought particularly to mention, on an occasion like this, that my colleagues, equally with myself, unfeignedly rejoice in this magnificent tribute of public admiration and respect for the splendid talents and truly noble qualities and virtues of Sir Robert Christison. For in commercial circles Sir Robert is as much looked up to and honoured as a true man and rarely gifted citizen as he is or can be in any professional circles whatever. With regard to the toast itself, I may be allowed to say that "Commerce" in its scope and character is changing greatly; is, in fact, by the mighty chemical and mechanical agencies now at

work, rapidly undergoing a complete revolution. Telegraphs, steamships, railways, penny postages and halfpenny postages, and daily newspapers, are so many modern miracle-workers in the department of commerce. By the telegraph nations at one end of the world can transact business with nations at the other on a vast scale, and with as much promptitude and familiarity as one merchant can with another in any merely local exchange. But while such extraordinary agencies tend to make enterprise more vast and competition more intense, yet we are happy to think that they only seem to fill the minds of our Merchant Princes with grander and nobler aims than ever. Instead of dying literally at their ledgers, and only quitting their hold of their immense fortunes when death compels, many of such noble men are giving in their lifetime, with princely munificence, parks for the people and professorships for the nation. Time will not allow me to enumerate all the instances of such enlightened liberality by living Merchant Princes on both sides of the Tweed, but you can readily recall their honoured names. Perhaps you will allow me to say, further, that it was in this spirit that the Merchant Company recently endowed the chair of Commercial and Political Economy and Mercantile Law in the Edinburgh University, to fill with higher and nobler aims all who may devote themselves to commerce, and, as far as possible, draw professional and commercial classes closer and closer together in one strong bond of practical union for public ends. The Merchant Company's vast organisation of public schools, containing 4500 pupils, was instituted for the same high and universal ends. The effect of these schools upon the University will be beneficial in a high degree. Already we know of meritorious pupils in these schools who will go to the University, backed by Merchant Company bursaries, and there distinguish themselves in a way to make us all proud of them. This expectation will not be thought any exaggeration when I intimate the fact that at the George Watson's College School the Masters are of the first order—twelve of them M.A.'s, and five B.A.'s—and all enthusiasts in the profession of teaching; and not only such facts, but better still, the experience of families arising out of such efficiency in all the other schools as well, have so spread their fame, that large

numbers of families have come to reside in Edinburgh for the express purpose of securing such an education. Besides, hundreds of pupils are attending the schools who come from the country, and return home daily. We merchants glory in this prospect of the good that the recent educational reforms will especially do to the University. Being very familiar with all the Merchant Company schemes under the recent Provisional Order, I hesitate not to say that time will more and more show, in spite of all criticism and prophecy to the contrary, that this vast educational reform of our hospital system, under the able leadership of my honoured predecessor in office, Mr. T. J. Boyd, is not only a great boon, but, I will add, an incalculable boon, alike to the University, to the city, and throughout broad Scotland. Already, indeed, it has crossed the Border as a pioneer movement, and is now begun to work out educational reforms in England, where, to speak mildly, they are quite as much needed as in Scotland. Our Merchant Company Schools, with pupils in each upwards of a thousand, have been visited anxiously by leading educationists from England, who, after first expressing their astonishment at the marvellous excellence and success of the schools, next express their resolve to return to their respective localities and give heart and soul towards similar educational achievements. Educationists from America even have requested an opportunity of inspecting these schools, so as to assist them in establishing new or in improving existing public schools. May I hope that the facts and aims thus briefly set forth will tend still more to increase the favourable impressions of professional men as to the importance of "Commerce," and also of its ancient handmaid—The Edinburgh Merchant Company?

Here followed the quartet—"In autumn."—(Marschner.)

Dr. Allen Thomson—My Lord Justice-General—May I be permitted, before proceeding to give the toast allotted to me, to address you for a short time, while I endeavour to express the pleasure I have had in being present at this joyful celebration of the semi-centenary epoque of the professional and professorial career of my long cherished and excellent friend Sir Robert Christison, and to say how much gratification my colleagues of

the University of Glasgow experience from the honours paid to so useful and distinguished a physician and man of science, who may be well characterised as one than whom few have more friends and admirers, and none fewer enemies or detractors.

To this I will only add our fervent prayer, that as he is now passing through the decade of years which is above that usually allotted to man, and by reason of his strength is still capable of undiminished activity and usefulness, there may yet be many years in store for him, which will not be those of labour and sorrow, but of joy and honour and peaceful repose.

And now I must turn from your Lordship personally, and request the Croupiers to call upon this company to join with me in the toast I have the honour to propose,—a toast which I am happy to think, from the intrinsic merits of its subject, can suffer nothing from my imperfect advocacy.

It would seem, indeed, almost an impertinence in me to say anything in favour of our celebrating the name of one who, by his own labour and deserts, has attained to the highest honours and most dignified posts to which the ambition of a man of talent and education could aspire. And still less do I feel it necessary, in such a company as this, to say anything in support of my toast, when I name the subject of it, not by any of his higher and more recently acquired titles, but by his simpler and best-known designation of John Inglis.

Sir Robert Christison has feelingly referred to the influence which was exerted on his early culture by his excellent and accomplished father, and I am sure that our Chairman will be no less ready to acknowledge what he owes in early life to the example, precepts, and guidance of his esteemed parent, whose name will ever be remembered in Edinburgh and in Scotland with the greatest respect and reverence. I may, however, claim, as belonging to Glasgow University, some title to call upon you to respond to my toast, as that university had its share in nurturing the talents by which the Justice-General has risen to eminence; for it was as a student of our university that he first distinguished himself so as to be sent as a Balliol exhibitioner to Oxford; and I know that he is most ready to acknowledge the debt he owes to Glasgow University for the foundation of those

principles, and that mental discipline in philosophy and thought, on which the superstructure of his forensic reputation was afterwards raised.

Knowing this, I can understand the satisfaction he must have felt when more recently he was able to lend his aid, and that most cordially and powerfully, in the accomplishment of the munificent grant accorded by the Government with which he had been connected, by means of which, together with the unexampled liberality of the citizens of the west, Glasgow has become the seat of one of the largest and most complete educational buildings in the world. Let me say that it was an equal gratification to all connected with our university to see our Chairman chosen by the votes of the Glasgow students to the honourable office of Lord Rector, and to witness his subsequent elevation to the higher and more permanent dignity of Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

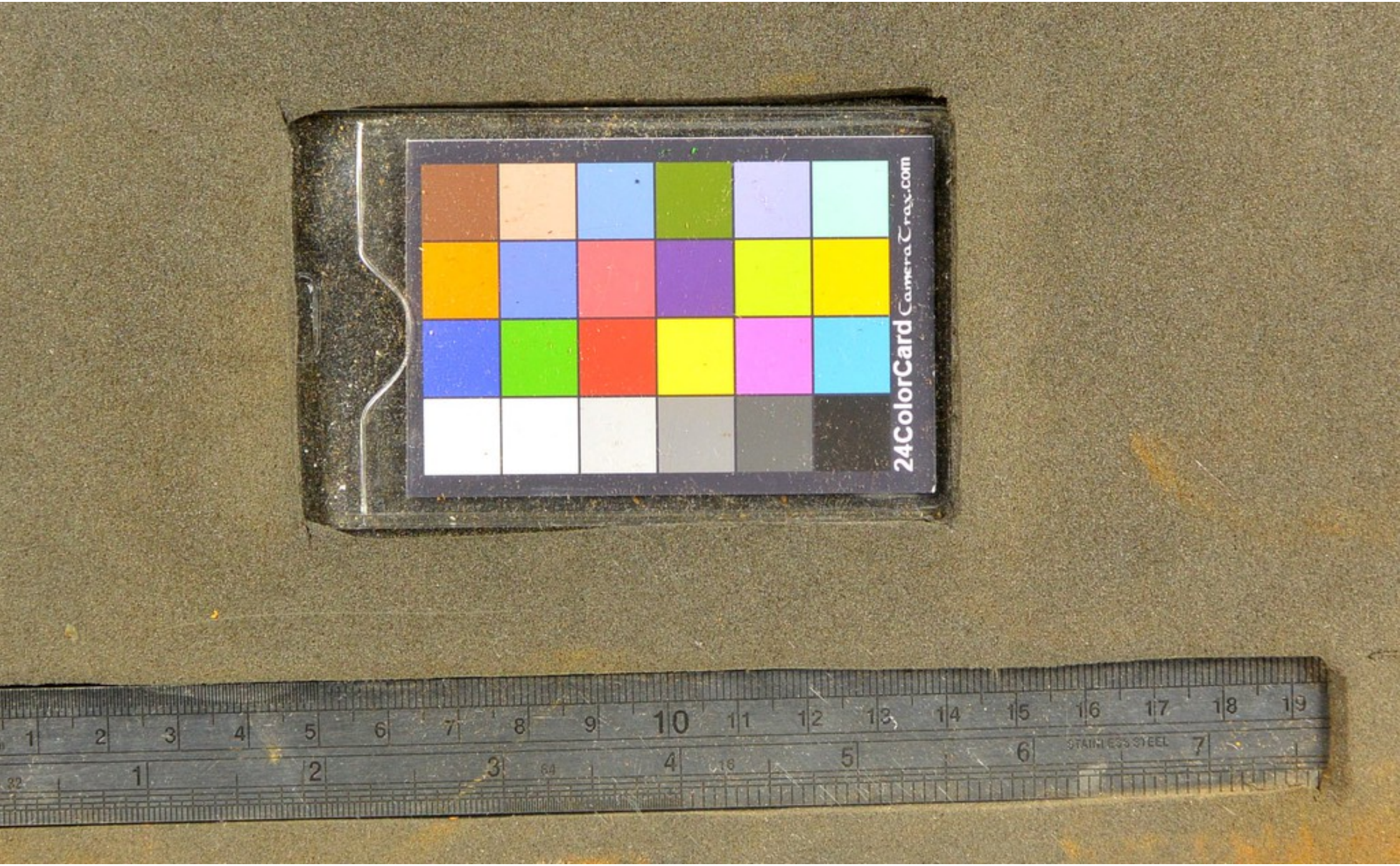
I call upon you, therefore, to do honour to our Chairman as the ardent, laborious, and successful student; as the eminent counsel; as long the head of the Scottish bar, by election as their Dean; as for a time the representative of the Government in Scotland, and thereafter the presiding judge of the Inferior Law Court; and as now placed on the highest judicial eminence as Lord President of the Court of Session.

But as we are met this evening to celebrate a University man, I may be pardoned if on this occasion I give importance to an additional claim which the Justice-General has for our esteem and gratitude, in the large share which he took in the introduction into Parliament of the Scottish Universities Act of 1858, and in the laborious and excellent work which he afterwards performed as elected Chairman of the Commissioners who framed the Ordinances under that Act for the reorganisation of the Scottish Universities. It is not my intention to inflict on this audience a dissertation on our university system, but I cannot refrain from mentioning, as the distinguishing characteristics of the wise legislation introduced by that Act, and the Commissioners' Ordinances referred to, the establishment of the University Council, calculated to increase and perpetuate the interest of graduates in their university,—the wholesome government and control of university

affairs by the supreme Court, and through it (unless I must refer to occasional exceptions), the improvement in the patronage of many of the chairs,—the provision for the retirement of professors when no longer able fully to discharge their duties,—and the placing of many of the bursaries and scholarships under competition and better regulation.

Need I add to all this how much we have to thank our Chairman for the cordial and dignified manner in which he has conducted the business of this meeting?

The Lord Justice-General briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the Company then separated.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