

**The inaugural oration, spoken on the 4th day of November 1815, at the ceremony of laying the first stone of the London Institution for the Diffusion of Science and Literature / By Charles Butler.**

### **Contributors**

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THE  
INAUGURAL ORATION,

SPOKEN

*On the 4th day of November 1815,*

AT THE

CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FIRST STONE

OF THE

**London Institution,**

FOR THE DIFFUSION OF

SCIENCE AND LITERATURE,

BY

*CHARLES BUTLER, ESQ.*

BARRISTER AT LAW,

AND COUNSEL TO THE INSTITUTION.



London:

*Printed by Luke Hansard & Sons, near Lincoln's-Inn Fields,*

FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, & BROWN,  
PATERNOSTER ROW.

1816.





TO  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
ROBERT LORD CARRINGTON,  
THE PRESIDENT;

TO  
SIR ROBERT WIGRAM, BART.  
SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, KNIGHT,  
WILLIAM MANNING, ESQ. M. P.

AND  
GEORGE SMITH, ESQ. M. P.  
THE VICE PRESIDENTS;

TO THE MANAGERS,  
AND  
TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE  
LONDON INSTITUTION,

THE FOLLOWING  
INAUGURAL ORATION,

SPOKEN BY THEIR DESIRE,  
AT THE CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF THE  
LONDON INSTITUTION,  
FOR THE DIFFUSION OF SCIENCE AND LITERATURE,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY  
*CHARLES BUTLER,*  
COUNSEL TO THE INSTITUTION.



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## INTRODUCTION.

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IT was the wish of the person, who spoke the Oration, at THE CEREMONY OF LAYING THE FIRST STONE OF THE LONDON INSTITUTION, FOR THE DIFFUSION OF SCIENCE AND LITERATURE, to prefix to this publication of it, a succinct Historical Account of Commerce, from the Macedonian Conquest to the present time; and to shew the constant exchange of services, between Commerce and Literature, during this period. The present accomplishment of this design, being incompatible with his professional duties, he begs leave to supply it, in a very limited degree, by the following Extracts, principally taken, from his Work entitled, “*A Succinct History of the Geographical and Political Revolutions of the Empire of Germany, or the Principal States, which composed the Empire of Charlemagne, from his Coronation in 800, to its Dissolution in 1806, with some account of the Genealogies of the Imperial House of Hapsburgh, and of the*”  
“*Six*”



“ *Six Secular Electors of Germany; and of Roman, German, French and English Nobility,*”  
—1 Vol. 8vo.

These Extracts may be found to give a Short View of the Commercial Intercourse between Europe and Asia, from the death of Alexander the Great, till the taking of Constantinople by Mahomet II: 2dly, Of the Commercial History of Venice; 3dly, Genoa; 4thly, The Lombards; 5thly, Florence; 6thly, The Hanse-Towns; and 7thly, The Netherlands.

## I.

THE greatest Commercial project, ever planned, was *the design of Alexander the Great, to effect a regular mercantile intercourse between the eastern and western divisions of the then known parts of the world, and to fix its northern emporium near the confluence of the Jumna and the Ganges, and its southern, at Alexandria.* After the death of that monarch, Seleucus made himself master of the Persian Empire, and Ptolemy, the son of Lagus, secured Egypt. Under each, the commerce with the east was so successfully pursued, that, even with China, a considerable trade was carried on, both by land and sea. The principal article of it was Silk.

On



On land, this commerce was managed by caravans: some took a northern, others, a southern route. The former passed through the Great Desert, Kashgar, Samarcand, and the northern limits of Persia, into Syria, where they were met by the Merchants of Europe. The whole journey took up 243 days; but a great proportion of the commodity was purchased, on its passage, by the Merchants of Nisibis and Armenia. The southern route led the caravans, through the mountains of Thibet, to the Merchants of Europe, who met them in the Guzzerat.

The trade by sea was carried on in ships, which sailed from the Eastern ports of China, to Malacca and Achem, the Promontory of Sumatra; and, sometimes to Ceylon, the Taprobané of the Antients. There, they were met by the mercantile fleets, which sailed from the Persian Gulph and the adjacent countries; and these transmitted the freights to the Ports of Europe.

In the reign of the Emperor Justinian, Silk worms were introduced into Europe.

This was not the only instance of his attention to Commerce. A general encouragement  
of



of it was one of the few laudable parts of his character ; and the same remark may be applied to several of his successors. The effects of Commerce in civilizing and enriching a nation, are perhaps no where so discernible, as in this period of the history of the Byzantine emperors. Many of their fairest provinces were wrested from them, and almost all were ravaged by the barbarians. The Government was uniformly feeble and oppressive, its Ministers uniformly ignorant and cruel, and the country continually divided into factions. Still, a considerable degree of commerce remained in her ; and in consequence of it, so much of Art, of Science and of Literature was preserved at Constantinople, as gave it an air of elegance and even of magnificence. This astonished the crusaders. “ O “ what a vast City,” says one of their historians, as he is translated by Dr. Robertson, (Hist. of Charles V. vol. I. Note xiv.), “ is Constantinople, and how beautiful ! How many “ Monasteries are there in it, and how many “ Palaces, built with wonderful art ! How many “ Manufactories are there in the city, amazing “ to behold ! It would be astonishing to relate “ how it abounds with all good things, with “ gold, silver, and stuffs of various kind : for, “ every hour, ships arrive in it’s port, laden with “ all things necessary for the use of man.”

“ The



“The Crusaders,” says another historian, as he also is translated by the same author, “could not have believed that there was a city so beautiful and so rich in the whole world. When they viewed its high walls, its lofty towers, its rich palaces, its superb churches, all appeared so great, that they could have formed no conception of this sovereign city, unless they had seen it with their own eyes.”—Such were the salutary effects of commerce, even in a falling empire, and under a vicious and oppressive government.

## II.

The wealth and elegance, which Commerce thus introduced into Constantinople, were diffused over the adjacent provinces, and even reached her Italian Territories.—But, from another cause, a state was now forming on the northernmost shores of the Hadriatic; the wisdom and activity of whose government were soon to place them at the head of European commerce.

The *Veneti* of the Romans, occupied a territory which stretched from the Addua on the west, to the confines of Pannonia on the east,—the space between the Rhætian and Julian Alps, and the Po. *Modern Venice* owes its origin to the invasion of Attila in 457, which drove  
 B several



several families of Aquileia, Padua and the adjacent country, into a cluster of numerous islands, which lie in the extremity of the Hadriatic Gulph, and are separated by shallow waters from the continent. Insensibly, something of a federal union was established among them; and, in the twelve principal islands, twelve judges were annually elected. These, in 697, were superseded by a chief, called a Duke or Doge, who was chosen for life, and enjoyed sovereign power. He was elected by a general assembly of the people. At first, all the public concerns of the republic were subject to the controul of that assembly. In 1172, a great council was established, which insensibly drew to it the whole administration of affairs. It was chosen out of the body of the people, by twelve tribunes, elected for that purpose at a general meeting. In 1298, the council was made hereditary. A conspiracy in 1310, to restore the antient form of government, gave rise to an appointment of twelve commissioners to discover its secret accomplices. That appointment, under the appellation of the *Council of Ten*, was, soon after, made permanent. In this form, till the late revolution, the government of Venice continued. It was a pure and severe aristocracy:—the council was omnipotent, the doge, almost a pageant, the people, quite a cipher.



About the beginning of the eleventh century, Venice became generally known in Europe, by her extensive and lucrative trade with the sovereign princes and states of Italy, Germany, Greece and Egypt. From a merchant, she became, like our own East India Company, a conqueror: by degrees, she turned her factories into fortresses, and, by conquest or treaty, made herself mistress of many towns and ports of Dalmatia, Albania, and the Morea, and of the islands of Candia, Corfû and Cephalonia, in the Archipelago.

Having taken a leading part in the famous League of Lombardy, in support of Pope Alexander III, his Holiness, in testimony of his gratitude to her, conferred on her the Seignory of the Hadriatic sea. This gave rise to the singular and splendid ceremony of the Doge's marrying the Sea, on the Feast of the Ascension, by throwing into it, his ring, as a symbol of their Espousal.

With equal success, but perhaps without equal wisdom, Venice afterwards extended her conquests over a considerable part of the adjoining continent of Italy. They often proved to her a source of dispute and war, and drained her



of the wealth, which she received from the sea.

Of the wealth and magnificence of Venice, during the reign of her prosperity, the following account is given by the elegant and nervous pen of Doctor Robertson, (*Historical Disquisitions concerning Antient India*, p. 130). “The revenues  
“ of the republic, as well as the wealth amassed by  
“ individuals, exceeded whatever was elsewhere  
“ known. In the magnificence of their houses,  
“ the richness of furniture, in profusion of plate,  
“ and in every thing which contributed either  
“ towards elegance or parade in their mode of  
“ living,—the nobles of Venice surpassed the  
“ state of the greatest monarch beyond the Alps.  
“ —Nor was all this the display of an inconsi-  
“ derate dissipation, it was the natural conse-  
“ quence of successful industry, which, having  
“ accumulated wealth with ease, is entitled to  
“ enjoy it in splendor.”—About the year 1420,  
(*Ib.* Note 50), “the naval force of the republic  
“ consisted of 3,000 trading vessels of various  
“ dimensions, on board of which were employed  
“ 17,000 sailors : of 300 ships of greater force,  
“ manned with 8,000 sailors : and of 45 large  
“ galleasses or carracks, navigated by 11,000  
“ sailors. In public and private arsenals, 16,000  
“ carpenters were employed.”

It



It was during this height of her glory, that Sannazar addressed to her the celebrated verses,—

“ Viderat Hadriacis Venetam Neptunus in undis

“ Stare Urbem, et toto ponere jura Mari :

“ Nunc mihi Tarpeias, quantum vis, Jupiter, arces

“ Objice, et illa tui mœnia Martis, ait :

“ Si Pelago Tiberim præfers,—Urbem aspice utramque :

“ Illam homines dices, hanc posuisse Deum.”

With a liberality equally honourable to the poet and the patrons, the Senate of Venice presented the poet with one hundred Crowns of Gold for every verse.

To this splendid state of prosperity, the new system of commerce, introduced into Europe, in consequence of the discovery of America, and the opening of a direct course of navigation to the East Indies, by the Cape of Good Hope were fatal. From that time, Venice declined ; but, though shorn of her beams, she preserved a dignified independence, and some rays of her antient glory played round her, till the treaty of Campo Formio consigned her to Austria.

It is observable that the two first classes of the nobility of this Commercial Island, produce a pedigree, supported by certain and positive evidence, of more remote antiquity, than any sovereign, or any private family. The certain Pedigrees of the Houses of Guelph, Savoy, Lorraine,



Lorraine, Hohenzollern and Baden reach no higher, than the eleventh century; the pedigree of the House of Capet, equally certain, and more remarkable, as it uniformly consists of males through males, without a single female descent, extends to the ninth. But the first class of the Venetian nobles is of a much higher date. It is composed of the Contarini, Morosini, Gradenigi, Baduari, Tripoli, Micheli, Sanudi, Memmi, Falieri, Dandoli, Polani and Barrozi,—twelve families, that lineally descend from the twelve tribunes, who elected the first Doge, in 697;—and of four other families,—the Justiniani, Cornari, Bragadini and Bembi, who signed, with the former, the act of foundation of the great church of St. George Major, in the year 800.

### III.

The *Genoese* imitated, and, at one time, rivalled the Venetians in trade and conquest. They established factories at Caffa, in the Tauric Chersonesus: at Asoph, on the mouth of the Don; at Smyrna, and in the suburbs of Constantinople. They conquered the islands of Scio, Mitelené and Tenedos: the kings of Cyprus were tributary to them: and they reached the East Indies, before the Venetians.

It would have been fortunate for the happiness



piness and prosperity of Venice and Genoa, if a spirit of rivalship had not been carried on between them too far: and the former had confined her enterprises in the Mediterranean to its eastern, and the latter to its western coasts. But, in 1376, they broke out into open war: At first, the Genoese were successful, and once, threatened Venice with total destruction: but, the superior wisdom and firmness of the Venetians prevailed; and, at the sea fight at Chiozza, gave the Genoese, a total overthrow. The Venetians acquired by it, the complete command of the Hadriatic, the Archipelago, and almost the whole of the Mediterranean. From that time, Genoa dates her decline. The politics of the Genoese have always fluctuated:—with some intervals of rational liberty, under the forms of her old constitution, Genoa, in general, has been, either in a state of anarchy, or subject to the Dukes of Milan, the Kings of France, or the Marquises of Montferrat. Her misfortunes have been equally owing to the turbulent disposition of the people, and the contentions of her great families, the Dorias, Spinolas, Grimaldi, Fiesqui, Adorni, and Fregosi.

## IV.

By the defeat of the Genoese, the manufacture of Silk, and the import trade from the Indies and  
Arabia,



Arabia, became fixed at Venice. From Venice, *the Lombards* became the carriers of it into the Northern markets of Europe. Many privileges and exemptions were granted to them by the Sovereigns of the North; and in consequence of their carrying trade, they became masters of the coin in Europe. Letters of Exchange were first used by the Jews to guard their property from the vexations, by which they were continually harrassed. The Lombards improved upon them, and established the Banking system. For a long time, it was engrossed by them and the Venetians. In 1246, Pope Innocent IV. deposited at Venice 25,000 marks of Silver, to be remitted to the Merchants of Frankfort, to be paid over by them to the Anti-Emperor, Henry of Raspo. In 1307, our Edward I. granted leave to the Pope's Nuncio, to draw, by Letters of Exchange, the money which the See of Rome received from England. (*Rymer, T. 1. p. 4. p. 69*).

## V.

*Florence* was included in the celebrated donation of the countess Mecthildis to the popes. The validity of this donation was contested by the emperors, and Florence submitted to them. But, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, she threw off their yoke in consequence of the tyranny of Frederick II. For a century after

that



that event, she was prosperous and happy, under twelve magistrates, chosen out of the general body of the people, and called Antients. Dissentions then arose among the citizens, which ended in the usurpation of the Medici. From that time, the history of Florence is familiar to every reader. The Florentines conquered many cities in Tuscany, and finally annexed Pisa, already weakened by the Genoese, to their territory. They traded extensively, in the East, and carried on a considerable inland commerce: but the commerce of Florence, like that of Venice, was ruined by the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope.

It is observable that no mercantile family has attained so high a degree of elevation, as the House of Medici. They became Sovereigns of Florence; many of them married into royal families, and by females, the present House of Bourbon and other monarchical families descend from them.

## VI.

The *Hanse Towns*, were originally a confederacy of Towns, which, in the thirteenth century, united in alliance for the mutual support and encouragement of their commerce. The confederacy was first set on foot by the city of Bremen, and other seaport towns in Livonia.



The advantages, which they derived from the confederacy, attracted to it other trading towns. At one time, the confederacy reckoned eighty: they were divided into four classes: the Vandalic, over which Lubec presided, comprised the towns on the Baltic, between Hamburgh and Pomerania: the Rhenanan, over which Cologne presided, comprised the towns on the Rhine: the Saxon, over which Brunswick presided, comprised the towns in Saxony and Westphalia: the Prussian, over which Dantzick presided, contained the towns of Prussia and Livonia.

From the beginning of the fifteenth century, Lubec was considered as the head of the Hanseatic towns: the archives of the confederacy were kept, and its general assemblies were held in that town.

The League possessed factories and warehouses at Bruges, for their trade with Flanders; at London, for their trade with England; at Novogorod, for their trade with Russia; and at Bergen, for their trade with Norway.

Originally, the only objects of the Hanseatic confederacy were to secure their commerce against pirates and plunderers, and to extend

it



it by peaceable and friendly communications. They conveyed to the southern parts of Europe, the flax, hemp, timber for shipping, skins, leather, and other commodities of its northern growth; and returned to the north, laden with fruits, wines, drugs, silks, and other commodities of its southern growth. In the course of time, they rose to such a degree of power, as to engage in treaties with sovereigns, and even to carry on offensive and defensive wars. This raised general jealousy; and the kings of France, Spain and Denmark, and several states of Italy, forbade their towns to continue members of the confederacy. Upon this, the Teutonic Hansetowns restricted the confederacy to Germany, and distributed it under four metropolitan towns, Lubec, Cologne, Brunswick and Dantzick. Brunswick and Cologne afterwards separated from them; several towns followed their example; so that, about the middle of the seventeenth century, the confederacy was almost wholly confined to the towns of Hamburgh, Lubec and Bremen. They retained the appellation of Hanseatic towns, and claimed the former privileges. Under the appellation of Hansetowns they were recognized at the peace of Utrecht in 1715, and, at the Definitive Treaty of Indemnity in 1805;—almost the last moment of their political existence.



## VII.

The Hanse towns were robbed of a considerable portion of their trade by *the Netherlands*. For centuries, these enjoyed, almost exclusively, the commerce of cloth, cotton, camlets and tapestry. In exchange, they received raw wool from England; silk, spices, and the other production of the Levant, from the Italians. The wealth and splendour of the commercial towns in that country in the æra of their prosperity, placed the Dukes of Burgundy, their sovereigns, on a level with the greatest monarchs, and enabled their principal merchants to display such magnificence in their dress, their buildings, and their mode of living, as excited the envy of the noblest princes of Europe. Bruges was their capital:—In 1310, it contained sixty-eight companies of traders and artificers; insurances and letters of change were in common use.

Doctor Robertson (in his *Historical Disquisition*, p. 239), mentions, that, in the year 1301, Joanna of Navarre, the wife of Philip the Fair, King of France, having been some days in Bruges, was so much struck with its grandeur and wealth, and particularly with the splendid appearance of the citizens wives, that she was  
moved



moved by female envy to exclaim with indignation, "I thought that I had been the only queen here, but I find that there are many hundreds more." Few persons have seen, without surprise, the long and splendid line of towns between Ostend and Liege. When we consider, that they have survived their commerce for more than two hundred years, we may form some notion of the general populousness and magnificence of the territory and its inhabitants in the day of their prosperity.

In consequence of a dispute with the Emperor Maximilian, Bruges was deprived of a considerable part of its trade, and from that time, the city of Antwerp took the lead in commerce; but taxes and imprudent regulations insensibly undermined the general trade of the Netherlands; and the wise policy of Edward the Third attracted almost the whole of its woollen trade to England.

This leads to the commercial history of England, a subject familiar to all our readers, and naturally closes this introductory attempt.







FOUNDATION  
 OF THE  
 COLLEGE  
 OF THE  
 LONDON INSTITUTION:  
 1815.

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ON the fourth of last November, the interesting ceremony of laying the first Stone of this learned Institution took place, on a part of a spacious piece of ground in Moorfields, which has been purchased for it, of the City. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, some of the Aldermen, Lord Carrington, President of the Institution, George Hibbert, esq., the late President, the Vice-Presidents, Managers, Secretary, Visitors, Stewards, and other Office-bearers, a very numerous body of Proprietors, the Chamberlain of the City, Masters and Wardens of various Companies, the Committee of Trustees for Gresham College, and the heads

of



of the Public Schools of the City, together with other gentlemen of the first distinction, met at the City of London Tavern at half past two o'clock; and, as soon as they were duly arranged, went, in procession, preceded by a band of music, and accompanied by the ringing of bells, through Cornhill, Cheapside, Old Jewry, Coleman-street, and Fore-street, to Moorfields.

The procession commenced at three o'clock, and reached the ground about three quarters of an hour afterwards.

The ceremony was opened by Sir William Blizard, one of the Vice-Presidents, who, having previously enquired of Mr. Brooks the Architect, informed the President, that every thing was ready. The Secretary then delivered to the President a vellum scroll, with an Inscription in Latin, containing a brief account of the origin and object of the Institution, and the names of the Dignitaries, and Board of Management, under whose auspices and superintendance, the plan has been accomplished.

At



At the desire of the President the Inscription was read by the Rev. John Russell, M. A. Master of the Charter-house School, by whom it was composed :—it is expressed as follows :

LAPIS.AVSPICATVS  
 AB.HONORATISS.SAM.BIRCH.PRAET.VRB:  
 SOLLEMNI.CVM.ORATIONE  
 CAROLI.BVTLER.JVR.CONSULT.S.A.S.  
 CONJECTVS.IN.FVNDAMENTA.AEDIVM  
 QVAS.COLLEGIVM.LONDINENSIVM  
 CVI.NOMEN.SANCITVM.LEGE  
 LONDON.INSTITVTION  
 LITERARVM.ERGO.ET.BONARUM.ARTIVM  
 ET.CONPARATIONIS.LIBRORVM  
 GEORGII.III.REG.CELSISS.AVCTORITATE.INSTITVTVM  
 ANN.SACRO.MDCCCVII  
 SIBI.SVISQVE.PROVIDIT  
 NON.NOV.ANN.SACRO.MDCCCXV  
 CVRANTIBVS  
 HONORATISS.DOM.DOM.ROB.BAR.CARRINGTON.DE.VPPINGHAM  
 S.R.S.PRAES.  
 GVL.BLIZARD.EQ.AVR.S.R.ET.A.S.PROP. G.SMITH.M.P.PROP.  
 GVL.MANNING.M.P.PROP. ROB.WIGRAM.BARONET.PROP.  
 GVL.ALLEN.S.R.S. I.M.GOOD.S.R.S. I.RVSSSELL.CLER.A.M.  
 GVL.COTTON. I.GVRNEY.JVR.CONS. I.T.RVTT  
 CAR.ELLIOT. GVL.HATHAWAY. H.SMITH  
 B.FAYLE. GVL.HEYGATE.ALD. I.THORNTON  
 T.F.FORSTER.S.L.S. E.LITTLEDALE. GVL.VAUGHAN  
 IAC.GVL.FRESHFIELD. GVL.NORRIS. I.YELLOLY.M.D.S.R.S.  
 IS.L.GOLDSMID. T.REID. ET.ROB.STEVENS.S.L.S.A.SEC.  
 GVL.MALTBY.A.BIBLIOTHECA. GVL.BROOKS, ARCHITECTO.

The scroll, with various gold and silver coins, and specimens of the best medals of the present times, were then put into a strong glass bottle,

D

and



and deposited in a cavity prepared in the stone, which was afterwards covered with a brass plate on which a copy of the same inscription is engraved. A range of hustings, prepared for the occasion, was crowded by an assemblage of Ladies.

The Noble President requested the Lord Mayor to lay the first stone; who assented, and addressed the Spectators in the following words:

“Called upon, as I am, to the very honourable and important office of laying the first stone of an Edifice, which is intended to be the Repository of Literature and Science, I cannot be insensible to the high distinction thus conferred upon me by his Lordship; nor can I be silent on such a subject, during such a ceremony. To dilate minutely in detail on all the advantages and benefits which may be derived from the great work in which we are now engaged, is not suited either to the time or place:—That will be the interesting business of a learned Professor, on our return. It is in my province, however, to say a word or two generally on the subject. It is gratifying to reflect, that we live in an age, which has projected and thus begun the glorious work of introducing Science and Literature into this Emporium of



the World;—that the various sources of knowledge and mental acquirement will here be opened for the instruction and relaxation of the youth of this great City;—that they will here be invited to the Contemplation of the interesting Laws of Nature and Providence;—of the Animal, Mineral, and Vegetable World;—of Chemistry, Mathematics, Mechanics, and Optics; to every range of Classical Erudition,—in short, to the acquirement of every information, which can accomplish the Scholar, adorn the mind, or regulate the passions! These surely are considerations of great and vital importance.—That objections have been raised against the introduction of this sort of education into a commercial city, as befitting only the seats of learning and the academic grove, cannot be denied; but, it is now too late to listen to such objections. To contend for the extension of intellectual acquirement is now unnecessary. The world has proved its conviction of this point, by the part every where taken in pouring instruction into the infant mind, wherever and as far as it is capable of receiving it. I would, therefore ask, can any stronger symptom of barbarism be produced, than the opinion that men are disqualified by Genius and Literature for employments which imply the direction and benefit of other men? The productive power of



man is his invention, not his strength; and it is from the glorious and incessant conflict of intellect, that the best and noblest monuments of Genius are produced. Paterculus has well said, "*Alit æmulatio Ingenia.*" The work now commenced will therefore be devoutly looked to for the happiest results in the progress of Literature and Science, for the benefit of this great commercial city. May then our great City of London henceforth cherish those things! May her Mural Crown, now only designating Protection, Dominion, and Strength, be enriched by Science, decked with her gems of intellectual light! May her happy shores be the acknowledged abode of the Muses, as they are of the Graces! May Commerce and Literature be the twin offspring of her care, nursed as it were in one cradle, trained together in the same pursuits, entwined in friendship, and uniting their strength for the glory of the Empire, the stability of the Throne, the perpetuity of our glorious Constitution, and the prosperity of the People! And may the blessing of Almighty God rest upon the work, that in future times, when all of us shall be mute, and most of us forgotten, this Edifice may be the glory of our children's children, and the lasting union of Commerce and Literature in this City, be the happy means of making her Merchants, in their education and

in



in their success, Princes, and her Traffickers the truly honourable of the earth."

The Lord Mayor then took the silver trowel that was prepared for him, and proceeded to the masonic labour of laying the Stone.

After the completion of this part of the ceremony, the procession returned through an innumerable crowd, that had collected on the occasion, to the City of London Tavern, to hear the Inaugural Address. The spacious and elegant room of the Tavern was brilliantly lighted up and prepared for the occasion, and was already thronged with genteel company of both sexes. The Lord Mayor, the Noble President, Sheriffs, &c. and the various Officers of the Institution, having taken their seats, the Address was delivered by CHARLES BUTLER, esq. Barrister at Law, the standing Counsel to the Establishment.



## THE INAUGURAL ORATION.

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MY LORD MAYOR,  
 MY LORD CARRINGTON, President of the  
 LONDON INSTITUTION,  
 and GENTLEMEN,

Every person, who heard the eloquent and dignified address of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, on his placing the *First Stone of the London Institution*, must join me in regretting that, to his many other attentions to the Institution, His Lordship does not add that, of addressing you, on your return from the Interesting Ceremony. This, the Managers of the Institution have desired of me; and, in obedience to their wishes, I now request your attention to a few words, which I shall offer to your consideration, on the *Advantages, which Science and Commerce derive from each other*. But I beg leave to premise what I shall say upon it, by a short account of the Formation of the Institution, and the Views of those, with whom the design of it originated.



## I.

About ten years ago, some Gentlemen of high rank in commerce, and distinguished by their enlarged and cultivated understandings, projected the Institution, on whose account, You have this day been convened. Considering the mercantile eminence of their country; persuaded that, whatever increases the splendour, increases equally the strength and activity of commerce, and contemplating the example of almost every other European nation, they thought it due to the dignity and glory of the Empire, that her Commercial Metropolis should be graced by a *Literary and Scientific Institution*, on a liberal and extensive plan. They judged, that such an Establishment *would bring Science and Commerce into contact, and that, by their approximation, each would draw forth and invigorate whatever there might be of latent energy or power in the other.*

Under this impression, they submitted their views to the consideration of their fellow citizens, and solicited the co-operation of their munificence. The design was universally approved; and a subscription of about £.70,000 immediately raised, within the walls of the City of London,



London, and her Commercial Environs. The portion of land, which has just been honoured with your presence, was purchased from the Corporation of London, with the view of erecting upon it a building, suited to the purposes of the Institution. I am authorised to add, that the Gentlemen, who treated with the Corporation for the purchase of it, speak, in high terms, of the liberality of their proceedings.

Presuming on this liberality, and addressing myself to it, may I, an unauthorised individual, intimate an humble wish—(but a wish generally entertained),—that some arrangement may be made with the Corporation of the City of London, by which the Gresham Lectures, shall be attached to the London Institution; and, in conformity to Sir Thomas Gresham's wise and beneficent intentions, thus made really and actively conducive to the general diffusion of Science and Literature. This must be the wish of every one, to whom these are dear; or who reverences the memory of the venerable founder of the Lectures; or who feels the respect always due to the ashes, which still speak, of the illustrious dead.

II. That



## II.

That *the Union of Science and Commerce* produces public and individual happiness, and elevates, in the rank of nations, the countries that are blessed with them, would, if it required proof, be better shewn by history than argument.

The spacious provinces, which now compose the Ottoman Empire, were once the seat of Science and Commerce. Then, they were dignified by wisdom and valour; and, for a long time, were the fairest portion of the Christian world. Of their Science and Commerce they were deprived by their invaders; and, in consequence of it, sunk into a state of abject misery, which no tongue can adequately describe:—Large territories dispeopled, goodly cities made desolate, sumptuous buildings become ruins, glorious temples subverted or prostituted, true religion discountenanced and oppressed, all nobility extinguished, violence and rapine exulting over all, and leaving no security, except to abject minds and unlooked on poverty.\* Such is the state of a country, which hath lost her Commerce and Science. Would you behold a country in the full possession of them?—Contemplate your

\* See Sir George Sandys' Account of the Ottoman Empire.



your own :—the number and magnificence of her cities, the high state of her agriculture, the activity of her manufactures, the easy intercourse between all parts of the nation; her grand foundations, both for learning and charity, the graceful dignity and conciliating ease of high life, the countless decencies of the middle ranks, the cheerful industry of the lowest, the general veneration for the Constitution, the general obedience to Law, the general devotion to their Country.—Such is England! If it be enquired by what means she hath attained this height of glory and prosperity, much, it must be answered, is owing to that happy union of Science and Commerce, for which, in every part of her history, she has been eminently distinguished.

### III.

Now, Science and Commerce are mutually dependant : Each assists the other, and each receives from the other, a liberal return.

That *the commercial successes of a nation tend directly to promote Literature, the Sciences, and the Arts*, admits of no doubt. On this part of my subject, I shall do little more than appeal to your own observations.



In the course of last summer, many of you have visited the scene of the most glorious and eventful battle that modern history has to record. I request them to recollect the long line of magnificent towns in Belgium, through which they passed, in their road to that memorable spot, or on their return; the many public edifices of exquisite and costly architecture, which they observed in them, and the numberless paintings and works in marble, gold, silver, iron, and bronze, with which these abound.—I beg them to recollect, that, during two hundred years, all these cities have been in a state of decline. They may then judge what they were in the day of their prosperity. Now, every thing which I have mentioned, was raised or collected by the fostering hand of Commerce. For, till the imprudent conduct of the Dukes of Burgundy and the House of Austria drove Commerce to Amsterdam, the Netherlands were her favorite seat, and all these monuments of Art and Science owe their existence to the commercial acquisitions and well directed munificence of the Burghers of Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Bruxelles, and Louvaine. The Architecture, Painting and Sculpture, which adorn the cities between the Alps and Upper Italy, equally owe their existence to the Burghers of Lombardy. Had it not been for her Commerce, Venice



would never have had the School of Painting for which she is so illustrious. Had not the family of the Medici, afterwards allied to so many royal houses, and the parent of so many Sovereign Princes, been successful merchants, half, perhaps, of the precious remains of antiquity, which we now possess, would not have reached us. A single ship, freighted with spices, brought to Lorenzo di Medici, from the East and Greece, two hundred manuscripts, eighty of them, of works, at that time, unknown in Europe. Nor should we forget the Merchant-Kings, to whom, as the best managers of it for the public, the British Nation confides her East Indian Commerce. It would be difficult to point out a period, during which, more valuable communications have been made to the learned world, than that, which has elapsed since the Institution, for enquiring into the Antiquities of the Arts, Sciences, and Literature of Asia, was established in Bengal. Far be it from us to deny or undervalue the obligations, which Learning and Science owe to the Monarchs of the earth, or to the ranks which immediately approach them. To these, much, very much do Learning and Science owe: but, were they not themselves continually enriched by the commercial part of the community, scanty indeed would be their means of remunerating or encouraging the possessors of either.



## IV.

On the other hand, *Science has ever been ancillary to Commerce.* Not a step can Commerce safely take, either in her most simple or her most complex operations, unless the Sciences of Number and Measure attend her. Nor, should it be forgotten, that many even of those rules,

“Which boys can read, and girls can understand.”

POPE.

are the result of the most profound and laborious investigation; and that the midnight lamp has, over and over again, been lighted to the scientific men, by whom they were discovered.

To Navigation,—Commerce almost wholly owes her existence. From the felling of the tree to the launch of the ship, and from the launch of the ship to her arrival in port, every thing now appears to be reduced to rule; and the rules appear so simple in their theory, and so easy in their application, that they seem to be carried into effect by a kind of instinctive readiness, and a process, almost mechanical. But, to form these rules, apparently so simple and so easy, the minds of scientific men had been employed for ages, on the most extensive and abstruse researches. It is literally true that, in the circles of Art or Science, there is scarcely one, which

has



has not been pressed into the service of the ship-builder or the mariner. In those lines of Trade or Commerce, which are employed on the metallic productions, or in forming or compounding colours, there scarcely is a process, which the workman does not owe to chemistry; and which, it did not cost the chemist, the toil of years to discover. When the drainer of a marsh uses his Spiral Pump, he avails himself of a process, the discovery of which was thought to do honour to one of the most renowned of the antient Mathematicians. When the land surveyor measures a field, he does it by rules laid down in a small Greek volume, which appeared 240 years before Christ. To come to our own country, and nearer to our own time, the Steam Engine, now applied to so many useful purposes, and every day discovering new powers, was one of the inventions, which, in the reign of Charles the First, employed the learned leisure of the Marquis of Worcester. To the divine mind of Sir Isaac Newton, we principally owe the Quadrant, which, with Hadley's name, is now in the hands of every mariner.

But, to prove the general utility of Science to Commerce, it is unnecessary to travel back to the antient history of other countries, or the former history of our own. At the instant I am speaking,



speaking, Science is advancing towards us with an invention, which, to the latest posterity, will prove incalculably beneficial to Humanity in general, and to Commerce in particular. You have frequently read in your newspapers of the horrid effects of the firing of a mine. A very recent newspaper has given an account of such a disaster. Now,—within these few weeks, one of those men,—the *homines centenarii*, as they were called by Scaliger, who exist but once in a century, but who, when they do exist, elevate the country in which they are born, and even the age in which they live,—our illustrious countryman, Sir Humphry Davy, has discovered a process, by which this evil principle of nature is absolutely subdued, and all possibility of danger from it, altogether removed.

A stronger proof of the utility of Science cannot be required :—Perhaps, among those who frequent, or who may soon frequent, your Library, or your Chambers of Experiment, there may be some, whose bosoms are pregnant with celestial fire, and who only want the facilities of acquiring knowledge, which these afford, to become like that great man, leaders in Science and benefactors to Humanity; but who, without these, would live and die unknowing, and unknown. What a satisfaction it must be to the friends of  
the



the London Institution to call forth the energies of such a man.

## V.

Thus, in every age has Science been subservient to Commerce. *When they are separated*, Science loses almost all her utility; Commerce, almost all her dignity. *When they are united*, each grows with the growth, each strengthens with the strength of the other, and their powers appear unlimited. They ascend the heavens, delve the depths of the earth, and fill every climate that encourages them with industry, energy, wealth, honour and happiness—To civilization, to virtue, to religion, they open every climate; they land them on every shore; they spread them over every territory.

These being the happy effects of their union, must it not be the desire of all, who wish well to either, of all true and enlightened friends of their country, that every measure should be adopted, by which this union can be cemented and invigorated? Permit me to add, that should Science ever be neglected by this country and encouraged by others, the commercial part of the community, would, in all probability, suffer most and soonest, from the consequences.



In a conversation, which a very inveterate and acute, and once a very powerful enemy of England, held with a friend of mine at Elba, he spoke of her in terms of respect, and even admiration : but said,—“ The term of the *transcendant glory* of England *must* now approach near its end. Years ago, she took a spring, and left the nations of the earth at a distance behind her ; these, will soon take their spring, and, not having your burthens on Commerce and her Arts, will pass you.”—Vain be the augury ! We trust and feel it will. But, were there a ground for it, one powerful means of defeating it would most assuredly be, to promote the Union of Science and Commerce ; to stimulate Science to every exertion likely to prove serviceable to the Commercial Energies of the community ; to furnish Commerce with the means of affording to Science and her followers, every facility of research and experiment ; to invite Science within your walls, and to establish, on a wise, an enlarged, and a dignified plan,—on a plan suited to the high character of a British Merchant,—such Institutions as that, which the ceremony of this day has placed under the protection of the City of London, and her opulent, honourable, and discerning sons.

That to deserve well of their country is Their earnest wish, we all know ; now, power or super-



fluorous wealth is seldom so well employed, as in the encouragement of those, whose labours increase the knowledge, refine the taste, or elevate the genius of their countrymen; and those, who are desirous of fair fame, have no such certain means of attaining it, as connecting their names with great Literary Institutions, and thus securing the gratitude of the Artist and the Scholar.







