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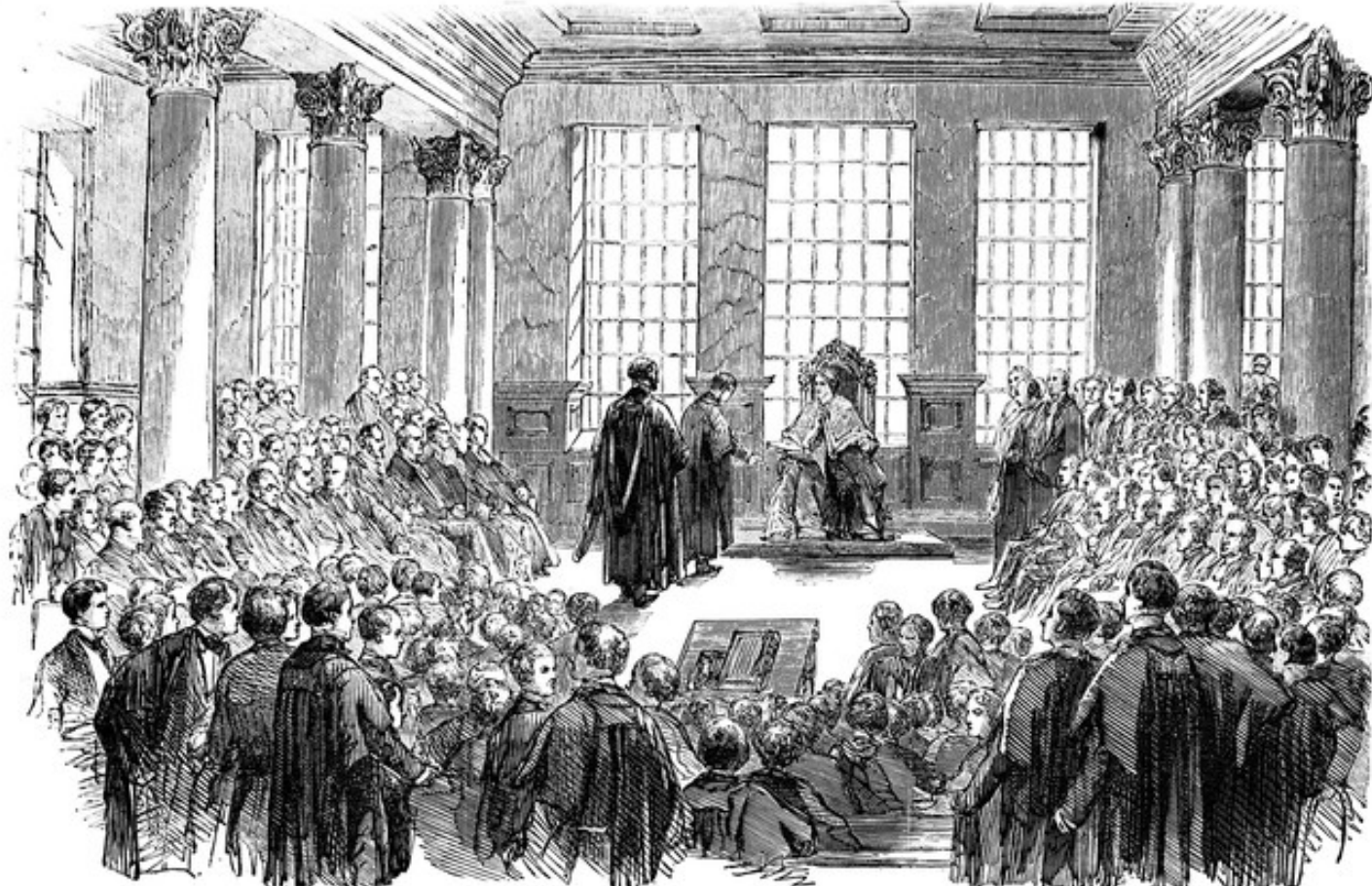
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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—THE FIRST CONFERRING OF DEGREES, IN THE HALL OF KING'S COLLEGE.

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

In our Journal of last week we reported, as fully as our limits would allow, the Convocation of the University held on the 1st instant, in the Great Hall of King's College, for the purpose of conferring degrees and honors on such candidates as had passed their examination during the twelve months just expired. We now engrave the very interesting scene—a memorable one, on account of this being the first time the ceremony has been performed in public. The Right Hon. the Earl of Burlington, Chancellor of the University, presided.

The proceedings commenced with the reading of a short report by the Registrar, which stated that in the course of the last academic year her Majesty had been pleased to grant a supplemental charter, enlarging the powers previously conferred on the University. Her Majesty had also, by warrant under her sign-manual, been pleased to place in connexion with the University, in addition to the colleges and institutions previously authorized to issue certificates for degrees in arts and laws, the West of England Dissenters' Proprietary School at Taunton, and Saint Patrick's College at Thurles. During the past year, 167 gentlemen had been admitted to matriculation, of whom 11 had distinguished themselves when under examination for honors in mathematics and natural philosophy, and one had obtained an exhibition; and four had distinguished themselves in classics, one of whom had obtained an exhibition. 25 gentlemen had passed the first examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, of whom one had obtained an exhibition in anatomy and physiology, another in chemistry, and a third in materia medica and pharmaceutical chemistry; several others had distinguished themselves, and obtained gold medals; 13 gentlemen had passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, two of whom had obtained the University Scholarship; seven gentlemen had passed the examination for the degree of Master of Arts; eight had obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and one that of Doctor of Laws.

The presentation for degrees then took place, each student being introduced to the Chancellor by the tutor of his own college.

The presentation for honors and prizes came next in the order of proceedings.

The names of all candidates who had obtained honors in the course of the past year were read; but those gentlemen only who had gained scholarships, exhibitions, medals, and prizes were presented to the Chancellor.

A deputation of graduates of the University then presented an address to the Chancellor and Senate, to which the Chancellor replied. The deputation then withdrew, and the proceedings terminated.

## INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS.

A COMMITTEE, to devise some efficient and continuous mode of investing productively the savings of the Middle and Working Classes, has just been appointed by the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Slaney.

According to the present Stamp Laws, a man may invest £1000 in land at 2½ per cent. expense; he cannot invest £100 in the same security at a less legal expense than 20 per cent. Freehold security for his savings is legally denied to the comparatively poor. He may invest them, or rather lend them, to a savings-bank, under the guarantee of Government, for a higher rate of interest than is given by ordinary bankers; but this guarantee is given at the cost of the nation, and the prudent man is constantly tempted, on the other hand, to withdraw his savings from a slowly fruiting treasury.

The only present alternative is the Benefit Building Society—a useful class institution, certainly; but, until lately, based upon most inaccurate data and most erroneous principles, and fruitful of consequent disaster and disappointment. Even under the improved system of prudence, the security, as respects the class of small investors—the security, namely, of house property—is subject to constant fluctuation and depreciation in value. The value of house property—we mean the market value—is contingent upon a variety of circumstances, including taste, opinion, fashion. Today, the regions of Bloomsbury yield, in estimation, to Belgrave; to-morrow, even the aristocratic Belgrave may succumb to the more exclusive and more palatial districts of Hyde Park; and who knows but in the next generation the West End will be identical with the old City of London?

While house property is thus inevitably doomed to the fate of depreciation, improvable land must constantly tend, to two a Yankee term of analogy, to "appreciate." Colonization—the development of neglected waste lands, whether in these islands or in the remotest regions of the British world—is, therefore, not merely a herculean work and a voluminous mission delegated to the Anglo-Saxon, but it is the surest, most profitable, and most profitable of investments. It has been estimated by Mr. Giffiths, that millions of acres in Ireland, now not returning six shillings of produce per acre, might, by prudent and economical investment, be made to render up as many pounds—increasing the aggregate produce from a few hundred thousand pounds to twenty millions sterling. What has not been done in the East?—the Nile and the Euphrates?—the Fens?

There are many moral as well as public-economical reasons to deter the capitalist, large or small, from committing his savings, in the shape of share capital, into the hands of land speculators. But it is obviously open to the individual portion of the community to combine their savings for this great and profitable purpose. It appears to us that the mode in which this might be accomplished is clearly enough indicated in a letter to Earl Grey, who, in the course of his introduction to the Bill that, under the present system, it is and in the course of the Government to facilitate the adoption of the principle in the manner suggested. This, then, leaves the question open. It is one of incalculable importance. The Committee referred to—The Savings of the Middle and Working Classes Committee—was constituted on Wednesday week, and consists of the following members:—Mr. Slaney, Mr. John Addis Smith, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Greene, Mr. Ewart, Lord James Stuart, Mr. Jas. G. Marshall, Mr. W. Patten, Lord Nugent, Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Robert Ferguson, Mr. Littleton, Mr. John Ellis, and Mr. Frederick Peel.

## PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS.

### THE RIGHT HON. ANDREW RUTHERFURD, M.P. (FOR THE LEITH DISTRICT), LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND.

MR. RUTHERFURD was born in 1799, entered the High School at Edinburgh, of which Dr. Adams, the well-known author of the "Roman Antiquities," was at that time Principal, in 1799, soon took a lead amongst his fellow pupils, and was awarded the classical gold medal, the highest honour of the school, when he was but fourteen. In 1808 he entered the University of Edinburgh, and became a distinguished member of the Speculative Society, famous as a school of oratory and legal discussion. His contemporaries, amongst others, who afterwards attained distinction in the pulpit, at the bar, or in Parliament, were Lord John Russell and Lord Murray; and amongst his predecessors in the society, were Lord Jeffrey, Mr. Leonard Horner, and Lord Brougham and Lansdowne.

In 1812 Mr. Rutherford was called to the Scottish bar, at which, through his thorough knowledge of law, his skill as a conveyancer, and his aptness as an advocate, he soon became known, and was early and continuously successful. So far as his professional avocations admitted, he aided the agitation for the Reform Bill, and when the Whigs came into power, in 1832, he was known as a thorough Liberal, and one of the ablest lawyers at the Scottish bar, and was in that year, in conjunction with Messrs. Jamieson, Skene, Dundas, and Anderson (afterwards Scotch Tory Solicitor-General), appointed a member of the Commission to enquire into the state of Conveyancing, and the

the borough magistrates; they were bound to secure all prisoners, and to meet all the charges of the gaols. Not only criminal offenders, but debtors were committed to their keeping, and, in case of escape, the magistrates became liable to the creditors. The then condition of the gaols would now scarce gain belief. There was no classification; no separation of the convicted from those waiting trial; no attention to cleanliness, morality, or health; the prisons were damp, dark, filthy, crowded; certain moral destruction to all who were sent, even for a brief period, within their walls; and, in short, an abomination and disgrace to any civilized country. Mr. Rutherford, in concert with Mr. Fox Maule, brought in and carried an Act effecting an entire reform in the supervision, management, and discipline of the prisons; a general, unpaid Prison Board was established, consisting, amongst others, of the Lord Justice General, Lord Justice Clerk, Lord Advocate, the Solicitor-General, and certain noblemen and gentlemen named in the commission, and amongst whom Lord Melville continued to take an especially active part. The corporations of the several boroughs were also empowered to appoint local Prison Boards, subject only to the supervision of the central board. The result has been a complete change in the prisons of Scotland. They are not now looked upon as a disgrace to the kingdom; and the great Penitentiary at Perth has become almost a normal school of prison discipline and management, especially for the reformation and education of juvenile offenders.

Another measure of public importance, to which Mr. Rutherford, on taking office, early directed his attention, was the Scotch Bible monopoly. The right to print the Bible in Scotland was reserved exclusively to the Queen's printers. Lord Murray gave no small attention to the subject of the monopoly in 1837, and obtained a committee to inquire into its operation, with a view to introducing a bill for the abolition of the exclusive privileges of the Queen's printers. The way, however, was beset with difficulties; the Government were perpetually wavering between inaction and the smallest possible majorities, and it was quite certain that no measure could be framed which would have satisfied the House that the monopoly could be abolished, and the authentic version of the Scriptures preserved from innovation. The question, therefore, was waiting for Mr. Rutherford, when he took his seat in 1839. He at once gave up the idea of an act of Parliament, and pointed out that by Royal prerogative the office of Queen's printer could be put into commission, and that, thus, by the appointment of an unpaid board, the monopoly might be abolished, and the authentic version of the Scriptures preserved. The suggestion was at once acted upon. In 1841, the Bible monopoly expired, and the commissioners for exercising the office of Queen's Printer were empowered to grant licenses to print the whole or any portion of the Scriptures to any persons whatever who might give bond for compliance with certain conditions. The practical working of the measure is, that the Secretary of the Board, who, with his readers, are its only paid officers, have the supervision of all publications of the Bible as the sheets pass through the press; they mark every error or alteration from the authorized version; without these are made, the license for publication is not given; but in every instance they are made, and nowhere is more perfect adherence to the established version of the Scriptures to be found than in those printed in Scotland since the abolition of the monopoly. The effect upon the price has been no small boon to the people. Bibles which, under the Queen's printers' monopoly, would have cost twelve shillings, are now sold for about one shilling and sixpence.

Mr. Rutherford went out of office in 1841; in 1843 took part with Mr. Fox Maule in his efforts to secure the right of independent spiritual government to the Church of Scotland; and twice brought forward motions for the abolition of the religious tests in the Scotch universities. In 1846 he was elected Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, and was again appointed Lord Advocate; and in the following year brought in four bills founded upon the recommendation of the Law Commission, doing away with obscure and costly circumlocution, and saving a small amount of expense in the items of drafting, engraving, stamps, and recording, and effecting an entire change in the practice of conveyancing in Scotland. But his chief measure of law reform was the abolition, in 1849, of the old Scotch Law of Entail, enacted in 1685, and under which entails were settlements in perpetuity that locked up the whole estate, made mortgages impossible, and stood in the way of any family settlement, or any money being raised for younger children, except by the costly process of the entail. Mr. Rutherford's bill of 1849, which, with some improvements, the law of entail in Scotland to that of England. Until these reforms were taken in hand by the Lord Advocate, they were admitted to be important, but were held to be impossible; and they would have been so to any one with a less complete knowledge of every point and detail of the matter to be dealt with, or who had less entirely the confidence of the profession and the public. The results of all the measures have amply justified this general confidence. The Entail Act has been taken advantage of to an extent that no one had ventured to predict, and the beneficial effects of the new practice of conveyancing are daily developing themselves. Nor has Mr. Rutherford yet given up his course of Law Reform; he has at present a bill before the House for the Reform of Proceedings before the Supreme Court of Scotland. In 1815, the system of jury in civil actions was first introduced into Scotland. It has never worked well; the practice of requiring unanimity in the jury, contrary to the practice in criminal cases, has given rise to endless appeals and renewals of litigation; to avoid which, the present bill proposes to give the parties a certain discretion as to how their cause shall be tried—they may select their own jury or arbiters from one to seven in number; the trial is to be taken as now before the judge, that the arbiters may have his direction in matters of law; and the decisions are not to be subject to review unless in case of misdirection from the judge on points of law.

Mr. Rutherford has been at present a bill before the House for the Reform of Insolvency in Scotland, who are now left wholly unprotected and unprotected, and last year brought in a bill for the establishment of proper asylums for their protection and treatment. He has also a bill in hand for the general reform of the medical profession, and has been a diligent and active member of the Commission of Inquiry as to the Management and Improvement of the British Navy.

Mr. Rutherford has been the maker of his own fortunes—he had no interest to add him but his own ability; and has worked his way to distinguished eminence in his profession and office in the state, by diligent attention to business, and laborious mastery of the law. Our portrait is from a colored photograph by Beard.



THE RIGHT HON. ANDREW RUTHERFURD, M.P. (FOR THE LEITH DISTRICT), LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND.

entire practice of the Law Courts in Scotland. Between 1832 and 1836, when his labours were completed, the Commission published several parliamentary volumes of reports, in the preparation of which, and especially in regard to conveyancing, Mr. Rutherford took an active and laborious part. Their value is proved by the fact that they have since formed the foundation of most extensive reforms in the practice of nearly every branch of the law in Scotland.

In 1837, Mr. Rutherford, whose ability and complete acquaintance with the law had become known by his services as a member of the Commission, and his further success at the bar, was appointed Solicitor-General, and, in 1839, Lord Advocate. He was then returned, without a contest, for the Leith district of Edinburgh, in the room of Lord Murray, his predecessor in office, and has since, at every election, been returned for the same place, without opposition. At his first election he declared himself an opponent of the immediate repeal of the Corn Laws; but, in 1843, voted with Mr. Villiers' motion for a Committee of the whole House to inquire into their operation, with a view to their repeal; and, in 1846, supported Free-trade.

At the period of Mr. Rutherford's first appointment to the office of Lord Advocate, the entire management of the affairs of Scotland was in the hands of