

TRANSLATION OF THE LATIN SPEECH.

1888.

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My Lords and Gentlemen,

This is the tenth Commemoration since the year when our first speaker, doubtful indeed whether he was standing upon his head or his heels, but relying upon your kind indulgence, came forward to address you. Nor have I undertaken the customary office which has fallen to my lot to-day, without misgiving; still, if we may twist the saying of Horace into

“What once has pleased will please ten times rehearsed,” perhaps I may venture to hope, that we, too, shall meet with the same kind reception which you have on so many occasions accorded to my predecessors. The right to be bored to death is confined after all to those unfortunate Masters who have to hear our speeches again and again. You, who have only to be amused, will not, I think, despise what has been served up before, provided we throw into it some spice of wit and humour. I am strengthened in this belief when I perceive amongst the distinguished audience we are accustomed to welcome upon this anniversary a few new faces. Our first salutations are due to you, my Lord Bishop, who have consented for to-day to merge your episcopal functions in the offices of friendship, and to place yourself entirely at our disposal. Had not the Boundary’s Commission kept him away, we should have had the greatest pleasure too, in welcoming our new Governor, of whose accession to the body we heard with much satisfaction, remembering the valuable services rendered to the School in past time by his distinguished brother.

Let me now pass in brief review the achievements and the losses of the past year. The early death of a beloved schoolfellow, two years ago our Captain of the Games, was a heavy blow to the School. At our last Commemoration he was seriously ill, and his prize-exercise, you may remember, had to be recited for him by a friend. Sad too was the necessity of bidding farewell to a much-valued Master, who for seven years had devoted himself to the interests of the School rather than of his own health, and who will be long

regretted amongst us both on his own account and for the charm of his violin. Two other Masters have left us, one of whom, a man who never made an enemy, we heard lately, with general sympathy, had met with a very sad and sudden death. He has been succeeded by a most energetic master, of whom, in his presence, I refrain from saying more.

To turn to our Honours Board, we have to congratulate R. Holme upon his First Class in the Final Law Schools, and A. S. Littlewood upon his First Class in Classical Moderations. A. Waugh deserves our highest commendation, who, when you remember the pretty poem on the Thames, which he recited to you four years ago, you will not be surprised to hear, has won the Newdigate Prize Poem at Oxford. Praise is due also to C. A. Cochrane, the first Shirburnian who has been elected to a National Science Scholarship, and to C. H. Salisbury who has been placed among the Wranglers of his year at Cambridge.

If any one should fancy that we have ceased to add to our Buildings, let me invite him to inspect our Sanatorium, which was completed and finished just in time, to meet a serious and two-fold epidemic of Measles, from which we suffered last Spring. Indeed it almost seemed as if Æsculapius was desirous of testing the assiduity of our doctors to the uttermost, under the new and improved medical system which has been adopted. Let me recommend a visit also to Abbey House, once an eyesore to the School, the new gables of which, already seen above the scaffolding, invite us to offer our congratulations to the new House-Master upon the change in his position. Nor must we omit to notice the Jubilee Window, which has been placed in the Library through the loyalty of several, I wish I could say of all the members of our School body.

Lastly we have reason to be proud of the progress of our Musical Society. The admirable energy of its conductor in the training of our Choir, and the excellence of his own compositions are known to all. No one can have seen him presiding over our Vocal and Instrumental Concerts without a hope that, when the thousandth is reached, our music may still be found flourishing under the same auspices and the same bâton which ensured the success of the hundredth.

It only remains for me to thank you, my Lords and Gentlemen for the kind hearing you have given me, and to ask you to set down any indiscretions or imperfections in my speech to default of years rather than of will.