The first thought in the minds of all of us to-night is that since we met last year

*Glasgow meeting, 1901.

the great Queen, in whose reign nearly all the meetings of the British Association have been held, has passed to her rest.

To sovereigns most honors and dignities come as of right; but for some of them is reserved the supreme honor of an old age softened by the love and benedictions of millions; of a path to the grave, not only magnificent, but watered by the tears both of their nearest and dearest, and of those who, at the most, have only seen them from afar.

This honor Queen Victoria won. All the world knows by what great abilities, by what patient labor, by what infinite tact and kindliness, the late Queen gained both the respect of the rulers of nations and the affection of her own subjects.

Her reign, glorious in many respects, was remarkable, outside these islands, for the growth of the Empire; within and without them, for the drawing nearer of the Crown and the people in mutual trust; while, during her lifetime, the developments of science and of scientific industry have altered the habits and the thoughts of the whole civilized world.

The representatives of science have already expressed in more formal ways their sorrow at the death of Queen Victoria, and the loyalty and confident hope for the future with which they welcome the accession of King Edward. But none the less, I feel
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