

SCIENCE

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BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS¹

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

My first duty, as president of our great association, must be to read to you the following message from His Majesty The King:—

I am sensible of the distinction conferred upon my dear son, The Prince of Wales, in presiding at this year's meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; for I realize that no member of my family has occupied this position since my grandfather was president in 1859. I can not do better than repeat the assurances then made by the Prince Consort on behalf of Queen Victoria, and express my deep appreciation of the all-important and ceaseless labors in the cause of science of those eminent men who enjoy the membership of your world-renowned society.

I propose on behalf of the association to forward the following reply to this message:

The members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science assembled at Oxford humbly beg to express to Your Majesty their loyal appreciation of the patronage extended to the association by your Father and Yourself, and of Your Majesties' repeated expressions of personal interest in its work.

The advancement of science is the constant object of the British Association; to give a stronger impulse and more systematic direction to scientific inquiry, to promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science in different parts of the British Empire with one another and with foreign philosophers, to obtain a greater degree of national attention to the objects of science, by removing those disadvantages which impede its progress, for the well-being of Your Majesty's realm and the general good of mankind.

My second duty is to try and tell you—if this be possible—something which you do not know already. I must admit frankly that, for a long time, the prospect of attempting this has weighed on me heavily. For a man who, along with the great majority of his fellow-creatures, can lay claim to no intensive scientific training, it is no light responsibility to be called on to address the annual gathering of the British Association. But, believe me, I do not intend to shirk that responsibility; for it seems to me that only

¹ Given by The Prince of Wales, Oxford, August, 1926.

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