

THE
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SECOND SERIES.

MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: BY JOHN PHILLIPS, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S.*

Professor PHILLIPS having taken the chair, was received with loud applause. He said—

Assembled for the third time in this busy centre of industrious England, amid the roar of engines and the clang of hammers, where the strongest powers of nature are trained to work in the fairy chains of art, how softly falls upon the ear the accent of science, the friend of that art, and the guide of that industry! Here, where Priestley analysed the air, and Watt obtained the mastery over steam, it well becomes the students of nature to gather round the standard which they carried so far into the fields of knowledge. And when, on other occasions, we meet in quiet colleges and academic halls, how gladly welcome is the union of fresh discoveries and new inventions with the solid and venerable truths which are there treasured and taught. Long may such union last; the fair alliance of cultivated thought and practical skill; for by it labor is dignified and science fertilised, and the condition of human society exalted!

Through this happy union of science and art, the young life of the British Association—one-third of a century—has been illustrated by discoveries and enriched by useful inventions in a degree never surpassed. How else could we have gained that knowledge

* Delivered in the Town Hall, Birmingham, September 6, 1865.