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## Principal Hutton's Speech at the University College Dinner

You will agree with me, Mr. Chairman, that the first result of Sir Wilfrid's speech is likely to be a boom in the study of Latin.

You will agree with me also that Mr. Coatsworth, if he be Daniel in the lion's den, was justified in cutting his speech short. Certainly Daniel, when he submitted to attend that banquet, had every reason to suppose that, whatever after-dinner oratory there might be, there would be no call for him to speak.

This is a dinner of the Literary and Scientific Society of University College, and not, as some have fondly imagined, of the Senate of the University, and therefore in the name of the students of University College I beg to thank Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir William Mulock and our other guests for their courtesy and consideration in attending.

I shall not go on to add that the statesmen among our guests show sagacity as well as courtesy; for that what the students of University College think to-night all sensible persons will think to-morrow. I have sometimes had my doubts of that proposition in the past; to avoid future embarrassment I decline to commit myself to it now.

Sir, it is natural that the students of this College should desire to see and hear the Premier of this Dominion, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the leader of the Opposition in the Dominion, as they had the pleasure of seeing and hearing him lately; it is natural that they should desire to see and hear the local Premier, Mr. Whitney, whose absence we regret, but who is represented here by Mr. St. John and by Dr. Pyne, and the local leader of Opposition, Mr. G. W. Ross. It is natural that they should wish to meet these distinguished men. That is all the politics there is in it.

As if to make assurance doubly sure, Sir, the students selected to propose the toast of "Our Guests," me, whose politics are antediluvian, beginning and ending before the first Reform Bill and the grant of responsible government, dating in part from the first Olympiad 776 B. C. to the death of Socrates B.C. 402.

For a similar reason, Sir, they called you to the chair. For as their eyes ran down the long list of our guests, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Wil-

liam Mulock, the Hon. Mr. Whitney, the Hon. G. W. Ross, the Hon. Dr. Pyne, the Hon. Mr. St. John, the Hon. Mr. Aylesworth, Mr. Coatsworth, Senator Jones, and on the other side, the Rev. Professor Clark, the Rev. Dr. Burwash, the Rev. Dr. Maclaren, the Rev. Professor Kilpatrick, the Rev. Mr. Barr, it dawned upon them that all their guests were in politics or theology, and these they perceived are kindred studies, for they remembered reading in Aristotle that neither study admits of exact thinking, each depends on convention and common consent, and opinion. You pay your money to this church or that, to this political party or that, and there is no constraining obligation, no mathematical necessity to make you choose one more than another, and though the methods in which the monies are spent may be slightly different and the audit in one case more severe than in the other, the substantial identity of spirit remains, for each profession rests on faith and not on knowledge.

Accordingly our students noting this began to fear there would be some loose thinking where so many politicians were gathered, and where there were so many theologians some loose talking, and casting about them for a compromise, desiderating some saving admixture of exact thought, some redeeming tincture of mathematical demonstration, they placed you, Sir, in the chair.

But, to return, how could there be any politics here, when 99 per cent. of this audience are in the same position with yourself. If I were so impertinent as to ask you, Sir, your politics, you would answer me as though I were to ask you your religion: "I am of the politics of all sensible men," and if I still pressed my catechumen for further definition, he would answer me, "No sensible man ever tells." Well, the vast majority of this audience are in the position of the sensibly-silent man; only a small minority, only the handful of eminent statesmen near me are not in that position. Not that they also are not sensible men, "so are they all, all sensible men;" but it is they only who are denied the privilege of silence, whose business and duty it is to tell us all they know and think about politics.