

how softly and fittingly 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, labour is dignified and science fertilised, and the condition of human society exalted.' These were the words of a man who, while earnest in the pursuit of science, was full of broad and kindly sympathy for his fellow-men and of hopeful confidence in the future. We have but to turn to the twenty Reports of this Association, issued since 1865, to see the realisation of that union of science and art to which he so confidently looked forward, and to appreciate the stupendous results which it has achieved. In one department alone—that to which my predecessor in this chair so eloquently adverted in Aberdeen, the department of education in science—how much has been accomplished since 1865. Phillips himself lived to see a great revolution in this respect at Oxford. But no one in 1865 could have anticipated that immense development of local schools of science of which your own Mason College and your admirable technical, industrial, and art schools are eminent examples. Based on the general education given by the new system of Board schools, with which the name of the late W. E. Forster will ever be honourably connected, and extending its influence upward to special training, and to the highest university examinations, this new scientific culture is opening paths of honourable ambition to the men and women of England scarcely dreamed of in 1865. I sympathise with the earnest appeal of Sir Lyon Playfair, in his Aberdeen address in favour of scientific education; but visiting England at rare intervals, I am naturally more impressed with the progress that has been made than with the vexatious delays