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JOURNAL OF
THE TRANSACTIONS
OF
The Victoria Institute,
OR,
Philosophical Society of Great Britain.

EDITED BY THE SECRETARY.

VOL. XXXV.



LONDON :

(Published by the Institute, 8, Adelphi Terrace, Charing Cross, W.C.)

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1903.

ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.*

DAVID HOWARD, ESQ., IN THE CHAIR.

DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT, SIR GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES, BART.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am sure all of you who have read your newspapers this morning will join with me in the profound regret with which we have heard of the death of our revered President. (Hear, hear.) He was one of those who might, if any man might, have been proud of himself. A man of the profoundest intellect and widest knowledge, he was yet one of the humblest men that ever lived.

I cannot help thinking that those who, even from a distance, have watched his life, may learn a lesson of the true proportion of things. He was profoundly humble, because all his great intellect was brought to bear upon deep studies, made in the face of, and in the consciousness of, deeper and profounder realities—the realities of eternity. Great as he was in science, his Christian faith was even greater than his human knowledge. He was one who has served God in his day and generation, and he has now fallen asleep—or rather he has awakened to the realities of the beatific vision which is the true knowledge which even his great intellect could only grasp or discern as in a “glass darkly”—the eternal verities! It has been our privilege to know him. God grant that we may follow in his steps.

I will now ask the Secretary to read the Resolution of condolence.

The SECRETARY.—

“It is with the greatest regret that the Council have heard this morning of the death of their revered President,

* Monday, February 2nd, 1903.

SIR GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES, BART., Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and formerly President of the Royal Society. That such an eminent man should have held the office of President is a high honour to the Victoria Institute, and affords to the world a standing testimony that, in the view of one of the most distinguished representatives of scientific progress, the relations between science and religion are entirely harmonious.

“The Members of the Institute desire to record the deep sense of gratitude and reverence with which the name of Sir George G. Stokes will be cherished amongst them. To the last year of his life, and notwithstanding his increasing infirmities, he attended the meetings of the Council whenever he was able, and his advice was constantly at their service. Alike by the lustre he lent to the Chair, by his contributions to its proceedings, and by his constant support, he rendered incalculable service to the Victoria Institute.

“To this expression of their gratitude the Members of the Institute desire to add the offer of their respectful sympathy to the members of Sir George Stokes’s family.

“EDWARD HULL, LL.D.,
“*Secretary.*”

The CHAIRMAN.—I think I need hardly put that resolution to the meeting, but at the same time I would ask you to express your confirmation of it in the usual way. [Carried unanimously.]

The SECRETARY.—It was not thought desirable, after due consideration, to postpone this meeting in consequence of the event to which your attention has just been called by the Chairman, because it would have been impossible to give notice either to the Members of the Council, or to the other Members in attendance here, that a postponement had taken place, in consequence of which you would all have been put to very great inconvenience, and, I venture to say, disappointment. I hope, therefore, you will approve of the course taken by the Council in holding our meeting, which, I believe, is the course that our late President would himself have approved.