

Standing at South Kensington, in the midst of the imposing buildings which mark the progress of that education in its various branches, we cannot forget that it was to Your Majesty's Father, the illustrious Prince Consort, that the movement largely owed its original inspiration. At a time when small regard was generally paid to either scientific or artistic instruction, the wise foresight of His Royal Highness anticipated what is now universally recognised as one of the prime needs of our national life.

Of the institutions now comprised in the Imperial College, the Royal School of Mines was not entirely transferred from its original home in Jermyn-street until the year 1880. The Royal College of Science did not receive its title until 1890, having gradually gathered under one roof the scientific departments, such as those of Chemistry, Physics, Geology, and Biology, which had grown up round the Royal School of Mines with which it was then incorporated. In 1906, the new buildings in Imperial Institute-road, provided accommodation of the most improved kind for the study of Chemistry and Physics. Meanwhile, the Corporation and Livery Companies of the City of London had planned the Central Technical College, of which Your Majesty laid the first stone in the year 1881, for the study of Chemistry, and in particular, of Engineering. As the result of the Report of a Departmental Committee, instituted by the Board of Education in 1904, the three Colleges were welded into the new Imperial College, with the declared object of giving the highest specialised instruction, and of providing for the most advanced training and research in the various branches of science, especially in its application to industry.

The further development which we trust will result in the rising of an important group of buildings in the neighbourhood of this stone, has been rendered possible in the first place by the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851, who have given the sites, by the liberal grants provided by the Government and the London County Council, and by the generosity of private donors, among whom the late Mr. Alfred Beit, other members of the firm of Wernher, Beit and Company, the Goldsmith's Company, and the Bessemer Memorial Committee, have been conspicuous.

It is the earnest, and we believe well grounded hope of the Governors, that this Imperial College, thus honoured to-day by Your Majesty's countenance and approval, and by that of Her Majesty the Queen, may in the coming years justify its title by providing a principal centre of the most advanced teaching and research in science on its practical side, not only for the United Kingdom, but for the whole of Your Majesty's Dominions, and that it may stand second in dignity and character to no other kindred institution in the world.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

"I thank you most heartily on behalf The Queen and Myself for the Address from the Governors, Professors, Students, and Staff of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. It is a great pleasure to Me to lay the foundation stone of your new buildings.

"The concentration of various associated Colleges into one Institution, which was effected by Our Order in Council of July, 1907, has always seemed to Me to be an admirable scheme for the furtherance of scientific instruction, which

My dear Father had so much at heart; and the names which appeared in the first list of the Members of the Governing Body were sufficient in themselves to give the College a very high status in the educational world.

"The purposes of the College, as stated in the Charter, are to give the highest specialised instruction and to provide the fullest equipment for advanced teaching and research in various branches of science, especially in its application to industry. In recent years the supreme importance of higher scientific education has, I am happy to say, been fully recognised in England; and as time goes on I feel more and more convinced that the prosperity, even the very safety and existence of our country depend on the quality of the scientific and technical training of those who are to guide and control our industries. The rapid growth of knowledge makes it necessary for the teacher of any branch of applied science to be a specialist of a high order, and the most accomplished specialist cannot impart the full advantage of his knowledge without that complete provision of apparatus for research and instruction which this College will supply.

"The College has already given admirable results, and we may well look for a steady increase in the number of students and in the efficiency of the instruction provided.

"The thanks of the country are due to those public-spirited donors through whose generosity a large portion of the funds have been provided for this great work, and I join in your appreciation of their munificence. I think it is especially fitting that the great discoveries of the late Sir Henry Bessemer, to which the remarkable development of the engineering industries in the last half-century is largely due, should be commemorated by the equipment of the new laboratories of this Institution.

"I pray that the blessing of God may attend the future of the College and the high destinies which I anticipate for its work."

*Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace, July 21, 1909.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to make the following appointment to the Royal Victorian Order:—

*To be Honorary Knight Grand Cross:*  
His Imperial Highness Prince Kuni of Japan.

*Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace, July 23, 1909.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to make the following promotion in and appointments to the Royal Victorian Order, to take effect from the dates noted:—

*To be Knight Commander:*  
20th July, 1909. Major-General Herbert Francis, Baron Cheylesmore, C.V.O., Chairman of Council, National Rifle Association. (Received the honour of Knighthood.)

*To be Members of the Fourth Class:*  
20th July, 1909. Colonel John Barlow, Vice-President and Member of Council, National Rifle Association.  
20th July, 1909. Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Robert Crosse, Secretary, National Rifle Association.