

Oxford, from her very origins, has been true to the noble ideal of a world-wide commonwealth of scholars. She affirms it in her assemblies by the use of Latin speech,—the currency of humanism, linking together not only the nations but the centuries. She affirmed it during the war by receiving homeless students from Czechoslovakia and Poland and many other countries. If Bodley's library "enshrines the Vestal fire of our European civilization," that is because by the very terms of the Founder's dedication it has always served the whole world of scholarship, not Oxford alone, and because in its oldest precincts the great humanists of the past are living spirits whose presence can yet be felt.

The past lives in Bodley's library; but his library does not live in the past. From the earliest days it was rich in foreign books, which, as the first Librarian stated, would increase in usefulness as our overseas trade expanded. We read, too, that the Founder himself commissioned the purchase of manuscripts in Syriac, Arabic, Turkish, and Persian. Did he not, with unknowing foresight, prepare the way for our war-time censors in the Middle East, where, with help from Oxford, over 90 different languages were read?

No detail of library management was too small for Sir Thomas Bodley and no conception of a library's purpose was too great. Were he here today, he would approve the careful planning of the new building, dependent upon inspection of more than fifty libraries elsewhere; he would rejoice at the international goodwill that made such inspection possible; and above all he would be thankful for the lead given by the New World to the Old in providing so generously for future needs.

Let me end by quoting some words spoken in Oxford three-quarters of a century ago. "There is a destiny now possible to us, the speaker said,—the highest ever set before a nation. . . . We have been taught a religion of pure mercy, which we must either now finally betray, or learn to defend by fulfilling . . . Within the last few years we have had the laws of natural science opened to us with a rapidity which has been blinding by its brightness; and means of transit and communication given to us, which have made but one kingdom of the habitable globe . . . Will you, youths of England, make your country again . . . a sceptred isle, for all the world a source of light, a centre of peace; mistress of Learning and of the Arts, faithful guardian of great memories . . . ; faithful servant of time-tried principles . . . ; and, amidst the cruel and clamorous jealousies of the nations, worshipped in her strange valour, of goodwill towards men?"

These words, by which John Ruskin fired the heart of Cecil Rhodes, have a clear application today. Never was there greater need for a world-wide commonwealth of scholars, in both science and the arts, and for a library of great traditions to serve them. I am proud that your New Bodleian bears on its foundation-stone my mother's name and that I am to have the privilege of declaring it open.

On the occasion of the Opening of the New Bodleian Library the Vice-Chancellor of the University said:—

The Bodleian Library was first opened to readers on the eighth of November, 1602, when another Queen Elizabeth still sat upon the English throne. Its founder, Sir Thomas Bodley, foresaw the need for future library extension. "In the process of time," he said, "there must of necessity be very great want of storage of books, by reason of the endless multitude of those that are present there and like hereafter to be continually bought and brought in". Ever since his time, shelf-space has been a major preoccupation of successive librarians. The building in which we are assembled today is calculated to solve the problem for a couple of centuries to come, as well as to give to library-users reading facilities which they have never had in the past. Its construction has been made possible by the great munificence of the Rockefeller Foundation and by the generosity of the many subscribers—members of the University and others—who responded to the University's appeal. When the necessary funds had been secured and plans by our architect, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, had been approved, your Royal Mother, Sir, Her Majesty Queen Mary, honoured us by laying the foundation stone.

The building had been brought to within a few months of completion when war broke out. It has already proved of much service to the University. It has provided in war-time a range of rooms in which national work of great importance has been carried on. Its basements have given shelter to the treasures of many other libraries. Now it stands ready to serve the uses for which it was originally planned. From the time of James I many kings and queens and princes of your house have honoured the Bodleian Library by their visits. Your visit today, Sir, is the more memorable since you have come to inaugurate a new era in Bodleian history. It is my privilege, on behalf of the University, to request your Majesty to declare the New Library open.

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

The Queen and I are glad that at last, after long delay caused by the war, we are able to visit Oxford so that I may open this great new building of the Bodleian Library. Its foundation stone was laid in 1937 by my mother, Queen Mary; at that date the building of a larger home for the famous store of books and for the future growth of the library was, after long and careful consideration, put in hand by the University of Oxford. Now, nine years later, the Library receives the new building which will provide ample space for its immense collections of manuscripts, for its printed books in all languages, for its accessions for many years to come, and for all those activities which must be carried on to maintain its high place among the libraries of universal learning.

This is a great day in the history of the Bodleian Library. On such an occasion it is proper that we should look back to the founder whose original plans have persisted, with remarkable tenacity, for more than three hundred years. Sir Thomas Bodley made an arrangement by which a great part of the output of English books should come automatically into his library. Such intake has continued uninterrupted ever since.

We now have better reason than ever before to appreciate the achievement of Sir Thomas, for grievous losses have been sustained during the war by many of our libraries, chief among them the British Museum. We must be thankful indeed that the Bodleian Library has been spared.

I am glad to learn from the Vice-Chancellor that during the war the University was able to lend part of the new building for important national business, and that books and treasure of other institutions found here a temporary refuge and safe shelter.

The new library has been made possible by the contributions of numerous benefactors, and above all by the magnificent generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation. Today I thank and congratulate them all, together with the Architect and all who have shared in planning, constructing and equipping this fine building. It is a great satisfaction to me that their enterprise has been brought to a successful conclusion.

I now declare this building open. I am confident that it will prove a most valuable addition to the resources of the University of Oxford, and that in the future Bodley's Library will always maintain that service to the advancement of learning and to the peaceful progress of mankind for which it has been renowned in the past.

Crown Office, House of Lords.

19th November, 1946.

The KING has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal to present The Reverend John Henry Hodson, B.A., to the Vicarage of Pockley with Eastmoors in the county of York and Diocese of York void by the cession of the last Incumbent and in His Majesty's Gift for this turn only by reason of lapse.

#### RATES OF INTEREST ON LOCAL LOANS.

##### NOTICE.

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury hereby give notice that in pursuance of the powers conferred on Them by the Public Works Loans Act, 1897 (60 & 61 Vict. c. 51) as amended by the Public Works Loans Act, 1917 (7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 32) the Public Works Loans Act, 1918 (8 & 9