ADDRESS OF DR. JOHN HILL, Before the two Literary Societios of the Uaiversity of North Carolifin.

Gemthemes of thiz Papastrizopic
This time-honored Anniversary is full of feeling and y notryction. The past, the present, and the fuwre, crowd upon our exeited fancies, the evenyee of mem
of depprted joynen the past
fears, nod its excitements.
The familiar erowd that once ansuvered to our greeting - the
 boy hood the thousand mity inceidents over which the curtain o
ime wis fist elosing, are brought back to us in their beauty and
freine resineses, and we seand upen helo of young life brightening around us epirants of the future Represenatives of the past, to give to th
 ing its inevitable goal. We return from the scenes of our earliest and best enjoyme
of our venerable Alma Mater; not indided




## *remme of friendship, till the silken cor Wort away by time? Ambition hececke

struggling with its chains, tily
sunk to te patient drudge?
dishments of love, bringing
dishments of love, bringin
your
hopes
who
who has been taught by the sufferings and experience of others
You must gither around you the memories and the warnings o
your own confieter Your past will be the best preacher to o our
future; and the lesson full soon will reaeh you. If the golden
fruit turns to ashess on your lios, and the leaves wither from your
tree of hope, while the breath of the morning is upon them ; if
 ardent loogings of $y$
search, it may point
tality,
But, entlemen, against these moral revulsions, to which th
Giner and purer of oor kind are more peeuliarly liabie, you are no Mner and purer of oar kind are more pecuiliarly hatie, you are now
making the bese preparation, neett to our holy Religion, which this
world is capeble of affording. You aredisciplinieg your minds, by patient tresearch, to the ardoous duties which are before you. You
rere training them to philosoophy and reason. You are imbuing them with the spirit and love of literature-you are laying up intelleetual
 tho world and wounded by the bosom on which yoa leaned- your
affeetions paralyzed vated tasto and the charms of literature will remain to you, and
you will find in the bright reaetions / poerty and the sterling
truth of you will fond in the bright ereations ef poetry,
truths of philiosophy, refuge and a consolation when
tered heart may reluse
But important as they are, reflections like these are not new
you, and must not press you terepletion. It msy be as usefuh,
certainty as appropriate, to review the progress of fetters, and to
certainly as appropriat, to $r$
trace briedy

answered
I need scarcely tell you, that the origin of letters and of social
refinement, is bid in fable, and veiled in the mystery of time
The claims of Indiat 10 these proud the The cliams of India to these proud honors are generally conceded
but Europe has been reluctant to acknowledge her obligations to Asia, and whether the tide flowed in

populous. country, abbunding
refinements of social progres.

obelisessand mose-grown seculptures, as
refinement and mournfal monuments
replete with interest, as is the history of this gentle, delicate, and
platic people, 1 must not pause. The litie rill thus rising in the

obstaceles, irom the sanny plains of Hindostan, gaining volume and
current asoit spreads
lowing forward bright, boid and majestie, th
clasie groveo
Greeee,
law givers, the sweet soff voice of $h$
quence, and her imperishable poetry, till it burat her matchless el
 The carly periods of R Roman history afford har few subjeect for obetrvation. It was at first a tatroggle
Tude power, of strong indomitable will, , hhan of interlecenual progy,
and refineement
She had existed more than three hudred year and refinement, She had existed more than three hundred year bubject to all the uncertainties and disorders of traditionary Laws
berore she adopted written code, and borrowed the twelve Tabtes
from Greece. This was a Ariumph of mind , and aflorded food for
 tion of elegant literature. The aggrandizement and security of
poifiteal power, still absorbed her energies, and it was not till the end of the fratPenie war, that the repose of peace brought a passian
for the taite and elegancies of Grecian models, and infued maseiline and martial genius of Rome, their meliorating and refin

 and ambition, floeksed to her for employ ment and display, and the
bright satelliteo of mind evolved around thelr sun, shedding erowning glorg. And Rome egave back some of the benefing she
reeieced Her conquesta were not like those of Greece, deadly
and exterminatio She reeived
 mente which they possesed and extended to to them the refine were peculiarly her own. orite Empre were emporcing the fairest Republie, when the arms
World, ble tution, the benign influences of Christianity were added to the



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 the Sybil, seeming to increase in value as their number diminished,hnd Cato so vitue and Tullys eloquence were alike impotent to
redeem the fortunies of Rome or the desunies of "mind. The barbarian came - wave after wave poured in, province after province
yielded, wall after wall is broken down, the Goth, the V andal and the Hun, thunder at her gates, Rome is Rome no logger, and Odga cef sits upon the throue oi he came ine long night of intect, when man was salisfied
Then eath the the of sense, and absorbed with the baubles of imbe-
with the conservatism in the Christian Chisech. Therrude barbarian paused
before before the majest5 of her temples, and shronk rom the desecration
of her sacred atiars. Hidden in fier secret sanetuaries, the rich freasures of past ages were preserved to us. To relumine mind and to stimu-
tate its progress. Yet cheerless and gloomy as were the middle ages, the 7 th eenta
and until the close layman who could write in Europe. It was the age of tournaments
and chivalry, of empty pageantry, aimleess enthusiasm, and sangui-
nayys strife, whent hemind ran wild with its own vacuity, and dallied with the sense stillit lost all note of its immortal destiny; when the
song of the Troubadour was the highest effort, and lady love the best tolook for all that is venerable in language, refined in intellect or vast
in uenius, English was seldom written even in prose, before the mid-
dle of the 14 lh century. The earliest, English work; Sir John
Mandeville's travels
onward with electric force', and in less than two centuries, Shakes-
peare sat and still sits upon the throne of English genius, thedelight
and ornament of mankind. The general introduction of paper, and
the discovery of Printing about the middle of the 15 h entury,
terminated most happily, may we not say forever, the barbarism,
humiliation and wretchedness which had so long hung its pall over
Europe, and threatenett to take from man the divine characteristic
of his nature. The fetters of ignorance were hroken. Books were
multiplied and became the inmates of the humble cottage as well
as of the lordly Palace. Prejudiee, superstition and power were
impotent longer to curb the unchained mind, and it sprung upward
tike the lart, to the very gates of Heaven, carolling its songs pf joy
and thankfulness.
Modern Europe and modern Literature date from 1500 , when
Grenata was added to Spain, and Brittany to France, perfectiag
those kingdoms, and establishing the fixed and independent gov-
ernments which at present exist. The chains of the feudal sys-
tem too were broken, commerce was exerting its healthful influence

## upon the intelligence and personel independence of man, a new class was springing up, ardent in the pursuit of knowledge, jealous of its rights, and zealous to win an honorable position in the scale of society. Stability and order are fenced arourd with neiv guar-

 of society. Stability and order are fenced around with new goar-anties, the seeurity of man in the enjoyment of his privileges, and
in the exereise of his powers is increased to him, he feels the with-
ring debasement which had sunk him to the level of the brute, ering debasement which had sunk him to the level of the brute,
and in the majesty of disinthralled mind, shakes from him the palsy
and the blight of ignorance and passion. Erasmus was the great and the blight of ignorance and passion. Erasmus was the great
leader in philological warare.. To his genius and ardent love of
letters, are wind was its humanising influence over the late barbarians of Rome. It
wang the Gothic column, with the tasteful capital of
Corinth-engrafting on the hardy children of the North, all the eleganee and erudition of the sofler South.
Then came the Reformation, the collision of powerful minds
impelled by the most powerful of causes-the bold, resolute and untiring Luther-the amiable and learned Melancthon, imbued
with all the garnered wealth of antiquit, and lecturing on Greek
and Latin Literature at 16 years of age--the daring Calvin, uncompromising as Luther, and learned as Melane a corrupt and
down every barier to free inquiry, and teaching a end
licentious Priesthood that age cannot sanctify abuse, and that there
were no subjects too sacred for the bold and full investigations of
mind. Add to these the discoverieso of Columbus, and of Vasco De
Gama, opening new fields of enterprize, speeulation and science,
and we have a singular, nay almost providential combination of and we have a singular, nay aimost providential combination of
causes, for the establishment of a new era, and the impulsion of
mind.
But it is to the developement of English mind, and the progress
of English Literature, (which are our own) that I must confine
myself. I can but glance at results and deal in generalities. And
if the reign of the Tudors was cold, bloody and remorseless, we
must remember that the sea was still working with the physical
disorder, the moral and intellectual tempest, which had followed
the dead calm of the medixeval ages, and society but beginning to
be adjusted. The times perhaps required a hard and iron nature
to rufe and direct the movement, and it may have been to the firm-
ness of their grasp upon the reins of goyernment, what we owe the
social order and the rapid developement of mind which marked the
period. The age of Elizabeth, of Spencer and Shakspeare, has been

 Ist Charles, and the gloomy fanaticism, and absorbing political
$\qquad$ of passion, hypocrisy and superstition, with cool decision, high
achievement and elevated patriotism, the divine mind of Mition, in the alembic of anarchy and revolution, gave to his country his sublime Epic, rivaling the noblestefforts of apcient or modern ge-
$\qquad$
$\qquad$ imagiration soited her bright, wing in the impure atmosphere of glory from the masterly mind of Newton which it is destined to
wear forever. Theirs was the true philosophy, high above the
affected stoicism of the porch, or the licentious softness of the garden, untouched by surrounding depravity, ranging with eagle

the realms of thought, and "looking through gature up to natu | there |
| :--- |
| God. |

Philoopbo, fappized,
The progress of mental illumination in the reign of the Stuarts,
is illustrated in the lives of Russell, Sidney and. Hampden, in the
constant atruggle of liberty against power, and a uster appreciation constant atruggle of liberty against power, and a juster appreciation
of the dignity and rights of man. The suppression of the star
chamber, and the remoral of restrints chamber, and the removal of restraints upon the freedom of the
Press, were vast conquests achieved for man, and mind had now few fetters, but public opinion and its own pora
It is not important to our inguiry to doter and the election of the Prince of Orange to the throne of England
It was an era in polities, and with the Bill of Right tious and unlettered, had few sympathies with from comparison with that has since elapsed, has no ceople to shrink genius; and signalized by its loftiest efforts. The progress of mind and develope its powers. Every feid of hiterature has been made
to bring forth its annual harvest in rich abundance; every department of science tortured of its secrets by the microscope and
cracible of sieepless genius. We are indeed blest with an illumi-
nation rich, luminous and mellow, and marked by strong and hopenau
ful features of yet further improvement. The age is ad vancing in
purity of sentiment and refinement of taste, and no longer tolerates












 prising that it thould be es. To the delinention of naturatiobjectes,
the portraiture of the passions, and the efforisof of the imagiaition; there may be thitit thond levation beyond which weemay not hount The Poels, the Oraiors, the Painters ofontiouity, womay
have rivalued, but note exeeled.
Homer and









