

**A DEFENCE OF
CLASSICAL
EDUCATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649560530

A Defence of Classical Education by R. W. Livingstone

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

R. W. LIVINGSTONE

**A DEFENCE OF
CLASSICAL
EDUCATION**

A DEFENCE OF
CLASSICAL EDUCATION



MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
LONDON · BOMBAY · CALCUTTA · MADRAS
MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
NEW YORK · BOSTON · CHICAGO
DALLAS · SAN FRANCISCO

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.
TORONTO

1917
A DEFENCE OF
CLASSICAL EDUCATION

BY

R. W. LIVINGSTONE

FELLOW AND ASSISTANT TUTOR OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD

MACMILLAN AND CO., LIMITED
ST. MARTIN'S STREET, LONDON

1917

COPYRIGHT

First Edition 1916,
Reprinted 1917.

GLASGOW: PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS
BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE AND CO. LTD.

PREFACE

THIS book owes much to the constant help of my wife; and I should also like to express my gratitude for suggestions and criticism to Dr. F. C. S. Schiller and Mr. A. E. Zimmern, who have read most of it in manuscript.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND IMPRESSION

EXCEPT for some corrections on points of detail, for which I am indebted to correspondents and reviewers, no changes have been made in this edition. I should like to take this opportunity of quoting a passage from Mr. W. B. Yeats' "*Reveries*," to which Mr. F. W. Hall of St. John's College, Oxford, has called my attention. It is not only a notable tribute to the Classics, but also a just comment on the view that translations of Latin and Greek authors are adequate substitutes for the originals. Speaking of his father, he says (p. 109): "All he said was, I now believe, right, but he should have taken me away

from school. He would have taught me nothing but Greek and Latin, and I would now be a properly educated man, and would not have to look in useless longing at books that have been, through the poor mechanism of translation, the builders of my soul, nor faced authority with the timidity born of excuse and evasion."

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

	PAGE
1. Discontent with our educational system ; the classics as scapegoats ; yet the predominance of classical education in Germany shows that it is consistent with the highest scientific achievement	1
2. Some opinions on the value of classical education as a preparation for a scientific career	5
3. Our real weakness lies in our natural indifference to knowledge	9
4. This due (<i>a</i>) to the insufficiency of our secondary and university education in the past	10
(<i>b</i>) to our university system doing little, in comparison with the German system, to foster the belief in knowledge	13
5. Object of this book	19

CHAPTER II

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND THE HUMANITIES

1. Two views of education criticised ; (<i>a</i>) the ordinary business man's views on a 'practical' education	21
(<i>b</i>) the extreme scientist's view ; Sir Edward Schäfer on science as 'the basis of secondary education' : what physical science can and cannot teach us	26