

**THE MUTUAL RELATIONS OF NATURAL  
SCIENCE AND THEOLOGY: AN ORATION  
PRONOUNCED BEFORE THE  
CONNECTICUT BETA OF THE PHI BETA  
KAPPA SOCIETY, IN CHRIST CHURCH,  
HARTFORD, CONN., JULY 7TH, 1868**

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The Mutual Relations of Natural Science and Theology: An Oration Pronounced Before the Connecticut Beta of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, in christ church, hartford, conn., July 7th, 1868  
by William Rudder

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**WILLIAM RUDDER**

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AN ORATION

PRONOUNCED BEFORE THE

CONNECTICUT BETA OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY,

IN CHRIST CHURCH, HARTFORD, CONN.,

JULY 7TH, 1868,

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM RUDDER,

RECTOR OF ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA.

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TO  
WILLIAM D. LEWIS, Esq.,  
OF PHILADELPHIA,  
THIS ORATION  
IS,  
WITH AFFECTION AND RESPECT,  
INSCRIBED.







“Ut semel dicam, nemo male applicatæ sobrietatis moderationisque famam captans posse nos nimium progredi in libris sive creaturarum, theologia aut philosophia, existimet: quinimo excitent se homines, et infinitos profectus audacter urgeant utrobique et persequantur; caventes tantum ne scientia utantur ad tumorem, non ad charitatem; ad ostentationem, non ad usum; et rursus, ne distinctas illas theologiæ philosophiæque doctrinas, earumque latices, imperite misceant ac confundant.”

BACON. *De Augmentis*, L. I.

“There are two sorts of ignorance: we philosophize to escape ignorance, and the consummation of our philosophy is ignorance; we start from the one, we repose in the other; they are the goals from which, and to which, we tend: and the pursuit of knowledge is but a course between two ignorances, as human life is itself only a travelling from grave to grave.

‘Τὸ βίον;’—*Ἐκ τῆς βίτου θανάτου, εἰς τὸ θάνατον βίτου.*’

“The highest reach of human science is the scientific recognition of human ignorance; ‘Qui nescit ignorare, ignorat scire.’ This ‘learned ignorance’ is the rational conviction by the human mind of its inability to transcend certain limits; it is the knowledge of ourselves—the science of man.”

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON. *Discussions*, p. 591.

## ORATION.

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MR. PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE  
PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY:

It is with very mingled feelings that I come before you to-day to discharge the honourable trust which you have assigned to me. Since last I appeared in this city in any connexion, direct or indirect, with Trinity College, twenty years—how large a part of the working life of man!—have glided swiftly by, and recorded themselves in the past. The lapse of such a period of time cannot have been without marked and important effects. We are changed, and all about us is changed. And yet, under the magic influences of the time, the place, and the occasion, these twenty years seem, here and to-day, but “as a dream when one awaketh,” or as if their history had never been written. The gathering of these, our younger brothers, around the knees of their Alma Mater before they too go out to the dread experiences and responsibilities of life; these walls that heard my first youthful utterances, and then, afterwards, listened as I spake the most solemn vows that can bind the soul of man; these familiar faces, the