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THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE AD- VANCEMENT OF SCIENCE¹—I.

Before entering on the subject of my address, I may be allowed to refer to the loss which the British Association has sustained in the death of Lord Kelvin. He joined the association in 1847, and has been for more than fifty years a familiar figure at our meetings. This is not the occasion to speak of his work in the world or of what he was to his friends, but rather of his influence on those who were personally unknown to him. It seems to me characteristic of him that something of his vigor and of his personal charm was felt far beyond the circles of his intimate associates, and many men and women who never exchanged a word with Lord Kelvin, and are in outer darkness as to his researches, will miss his genial presence and feel themselves the poorer to-day. By the death of Sir John Evans the association is deprived of another faithful friend. He presided at Toronto in 1897, and since he joined the association in 1861 had been a regular attendant at our meetings. The absence of his cheerful personality and the loss of his wise counsels will be widely felt.

May I be permitted one other digression before I come to my subject? There has not been a botanical president of the British Association since the Norwich meeting forty years ago, when Sir Joseph Hooker was in the chair, and in "eloquent and felicitous words" (to quote my fath-

¹ Dublin, 1908.