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There was a noteworthy ceremony in Merton College Chapel on Saturday, March 29, at noon. On that day three hundred years ago the same chapel had witnessed the public funeral of Sir Thomas Bodley, the founder of the first public library in Europe. In 1613 there had been an Oration by the Deputy Public Orator (Dr. Richard Corbet) in the Divinity School, a service at St. Mary's, and finally a second Oration by the "ever-memorable" John Hales, Fellow of Merton, and the burial itself, in Merton Chapel. Frigid and rhetorical as the formal Latin speeches of that time were, there was probably more feeling in them on this occasion than usual.

The commemorative service was a development of a suggestion made by Sir William Osler, and was to a large extent arranged by the Rev. Dr. Charles, Fellow of Merton, following a scheme drawn up by the Rev. H. A. Wilson. The chief feature was an English translation of the greater part of Hales's speech, made and delivered by Canon Skrine, who was able to impart animation and emphasis to the measured periods of the original. The Lesson was Ecclesiasticus xlv. 1-15, read from the accepted translation of the Hebrew text, which had not been known to exist (in a single manuscript now in the Bodleian), when the Revised Version of the Apocrypha was published. Dr. Iliffe kindly conducted the musical part of the service. Even in mid-Vacation the chapel was filled in every part, and considerable interest was taken in the ceremony, nearly the whole staff of the Bodleian Library being present, as well as many members of the University and City. On the same day the Clarendon Press published *Trecentale Bodleianum*, a small volume, priced 5s., containing Bodley's Autobiography, early Statutes of his

Library, extracts from his Will, and other pieces, including the two Latin Orations referred to.

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