

THE PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW.

THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PHILOSOPHY.¹

AS I think of the time when, as an undergraduate, I studied under Professor Pringle-Pattison in St. Andrews University, and consider that I am now called upon to act as his successor, I feel that I stand much in need of the kindly consideration you so generously extend to me. I can but pray that the traditions of this famous Chair, handed on with added lustre by Professor Pringle-Pattison, may in some degree support me; and I can at least promise that I shall not be found wanting through any failure to appreciate the magnitude of the task and the greatness of the responsibility which it imposes.

· Before this audience, and in Professor Pringle-Pattison's presence, it would be presumptuous for me to speak in praise of his great services to the university and to philosophy, but there are certain matters upon which I may claim that I am qualified to pronounce with some authority. It is well when succeeding generations are bound together by respect and reverence; and I know that I shall be expressing the feelings of all Professor Pringle-Pattison's former pupils here present when I say that there is no one to whom the younger generation in philosophy looks up with more unqualified admiration, reverence, and affection. We count it a high privilege that he will continue in our midst; and we look to him to give us, as the fruits of his greater leisure, still more of the inspiration that has meant so much to us in the past.

As Professor Pringle-Pattison left St. Andrews, to occupy this

¹ An inaugural lecture delivered at the University of Edinburgh, October 16, 1919.