



# Ræða flutt í kveðjuhófi Lady Shepherd and sir Gerald, ódagsett.

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Ræður – Kveðjuhóf – Lady Shepherd – Sir Gerald

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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Ræður

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My dear Lady Shepherd and Sir Gerald,

I cannot say that it is a pleasure to be your host tonight, when the Icelandic government and some of your Icelandic friends gather to take leave of you, because we all indeed are very sad, that you are going. But I certainly claim it as a great honour, as it is no exaggeration that both of you are among those foreign representatives, whom we Icelanders value highest. At the same time I think it is an amusing coincidence that after the long time you, Sir Gerald, have been here, I am the host, when you leave us, because I remember that you told me, that the first official Icelandic function you attended was a banquet I gave as Mayor of Reykjavík. Later on it so happened, that the first time my wife and I dined out together after our marriage was at your home, Höfði.

But I feel that those are personal things, that I should not talk about to-night.

Now our wish and intention is to thank you for all the good things you have done during your stay in Iceland. You have done everything possible to further good relations between our own small country and your great commonwealth. In furthering the interests of his Britannic Majesty's government you have never forgotten the interests of the Icelandic republic, and I can assure you that England has never been held in higher esteem in Iceland than now, when you are finishing your mission.

When we think about all the good work you have done here, Sir Gerald, we must not forget Lady Shepherd, and the great assistance she has given you. You were a very good host before Lady Shepherd arrived and we enjoyed ourselves greatly when we visited you at that time at Höfði, but surely I have seldom seen more clearly the effects of the feminine touch, then when I observed the change Lady Shepherd brought about at Höfði. Formerly it was a house, a very hospitable and a very respectable house, but afterwards it was obviously also a home, although it lost nothing in hospitality nor respectability.

Both of you have the same straightforwardness and friendliness, that is so invaluable in your calling and just those qualities have made us liking both of you, at the same time that we are so thankful for the good advice and assistance, you Sir Gerald, have so often given us.

People say that Britain has lost most of her wealth. We here in Iceland have seldom had much earthly wealth, and we have considered the enterprise, wisdom and endurance of our people as our greatest assets, but those are the same qualities we know so well from you, Sir Gerald.

I think that this rule not only applies to Iceland but to other nations too, and we think that while England has many public servants of the same kind as you, Sir Gerald, she cannot be poor and we certainly envy her of her affluence, if she can afford to let you go out of work at this early age and when your capacity for work is so unimpaired as it is to day.

Although you now must go from Iceland on account of some obsolete regulations, I am certain that you have yet much useful work to do.

In your future holidays we hope that you will find opportunity to come to Iceland and visit us. I can assure

you, that though many things may change here, you will always be sure of sincere welcome in Iceland and wherever you come among Icelandic people.

Wherever you may go until we meet again we wish both of you and your family prosperity and happiness.