

*From MAURICE HUTTON, M.A. (Ex.), Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, Professor of Greek in University College.*

DEAR MR. MILNER,

In reference to your candidature for the chair of Latin, I am glad to give you a general testimonial. More than that, I am debarred from doing, if only because the Government are likely to consult me, before an appointment is made, and to ask of me an impartial opinion upon the qualifications of the various candidates.

You have now been lecturer in Latin for four years; and though you have hardly had time in that period fully to show what you can do, and this vacancy has occurred rather too soon for your best interests, yet those four years should certainly improve your chances in my opinion: I have heard only good of your work, and I believe your colleagues and students alike have every reason to be, and as a matter of fact are, satisfied with it.

If I felt any doubts of your qualifications for Lecturer, those very doubts only emphasize my sense of your fitness for a Professorship. A Lecturer necessarily has more to do with elementary teaching, as a rule, than a Professor, and for elementary teaching popular gifts (vivacity, perfect clearness, common sense) are even more necessary than some less visible but weightier qualities, such as breadth of knowledge and of intellectual sympathy, and delicacy of literary taste. Now, in your case I have always thought these latter qualities more prominent than the former. You are essentially, I think, a thoughtful man and a student: I do not recall any one of our classical graduates since 1881 who surpasses you or, perhaps, is quite your equal in these respects. You have a keen interest in scholar-