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To the Hon. JOHN HAMILTON, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Queen's College, Kingston.

MANSE, NIAGARA, 27th April, 1857.

SIR,—I beg to offer myself to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, and Church History; and I send herewith, to be laid before the Board, Testimonials which I have received from the Rev. Principal Campbell, the Rev. Dr. Liddell, and the Rev. Mr. Romanes. I studied under Principal Campbell and Dr. Liddell; and Mr. Romanes was a Professor in Queen's College during the whole time—nearly two years—that I was Assistant to Dr. Maithar, in Kingston. All three, therefore, understand, better probably than any of my acquaintances not belonging to the Board, the nature of the duties which will devolve upon the Professor about to be appointed, and they have had ampler opportunities than almost any others, of knowing my character, intellectual, moral, and religious. And the claim which I venture to make to the requisite qualifications for the Professorship, will not, I hope, be thought presumptuous and altogether unfounded, when it is affirmed, in no faint or doubtful terms, by persons so competent to judge of them.

I may add that I have sought testimonials from these gentlemen only. There are others, on the Board, who know me equally well, and who are equally conversant with the requirements of the office; and I should not have hesitated to request testimonials from them had the appointment not been in their own gift.

I was strongly urged by some of my friends to apply also to the Professors whose classes I attended at the University of Edinburgh. And I perceive that both Principal Campbell and Dr. Liddell have taken occasion to state, that they are aware that the Edinburgh Professors entertained a favourable opinion of me. But it is natural for one who is not hardened by experience of this kind, to be averse to apply, for a recommendation of himself, to persons with whom he is not familiarly acquainted; and as I was not on intimate terms with any of the Professors in Edinburgh, I could not overcome my repugnance to solicit them to favour me with the expression of their opinion of me.

With respect to my qualifications for the office, I beg to say, that I gave a good deal of attention to Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, and Church History, especially the two former: when I was a Divinity student and a Probationer, and that during five years of my residence in Niagara, I have been in the habit of spending several hours in the morning of five days in the week, in the study of the Scriptures in the original languages. I say during five years of my residence in Niagara, because during the last year or so, a part of the hours I had previously given to those studies, I have occupied in preparing two promising young men of my own congregation, to enter Queen's College, with a view to the ministry. In my researches into the text, meaning, and literature of the Bible, I have had the advantage of a pretty well furnished library; and besides the principal publications of English Divines on the subject, I have studied the exegetical works of Havernick, Hagenbach, Hengstenberg, Olshausen, Ebrard, Tholuck, Bittroth, and several others, of the more orthodox German writers. With a somewhat active temperament, vigorous health, and a pastoral charge in which I am peculiarly free from harassing interruptions, I have been able to devote a large portion of my time to these studies, without neglecting, I hope, the direct interests of my people.

I cannot help adding, however, that my present theological attainments, though I trust they would be found even now adequate to the demands of the Professorship, are very limited in comparison with what I believe they would become, if I should obtain that office, for it would then be alike my duty and my privilege, to make the acquisition of that sacred learning which I love, the great business of my life. And as study has never been a task to me, but a delight, no labour would be wanting on my part to accomplish a progress in Biblical and Ecclesiastical learning, which would not only be sufficient to meet the immediate requirements of the Chair, but might serve to reflect some honour on the College and the Church.