

From the Rev. J. S. Memes, I. L. D.,  
Minister of Hamilton.

MANSIE OF HAMILTON, NOV. 21, 1848.

I feel much satisfaction in expressing my high opinion of the character and clerical attainments of Mr. John McIlraith. Though very recently licenced to preach the Gospel, Mr. McIlraith in every trial and appearance before the Presbytery, has evinced such powers of mind and so ripe a scholarship as warrant the anticipation of a distinguished and successful career in the service of his blessed Master.

My particular impressions, from examinations in which I have seen few equal, and none surpass, Mr. McIlraith, were that he possesses power of illustration, and fertility of resource in reasoning, well adapted to form the popular preacher, and which, under grace, cannot fail to render him acceptable as a faithful teacher, strikingly and impressively setting forth the truth. I marked, at the same time, in all his compositions, a correctness of taste, carefully matured by study, and well calculated to restrain a vigorous imagination within the chaste limits of a just and christian oratory.

In short, from the attainments which he displayed as already acquired, no less than from his native talents, and the studious habits which I learn have characterised his past life, I feel warranted in expressing well grounded, though high, expectations of Mr. McIlraith's future eminence and usefulness.

J. S. MEMES, I. L. D.,  
Minister of Hamilton.

From the Rev. James McCulloch, D. D.,  
Minister of Greenock.

GREENOCK, APRIL 19th, 1854.

I consider the Rev. John McIlraith to be eminently qualified both by personal character and by professional gifts for the office of a parochial Minister.

To sincere piety and great christian worth, Mr. McIlraith adds an ardent and enlightened zeal for the cause of the Gospel, and the best interests of men; and his acquirements, both literary and theological, are varied and extensive. He is also an able, instructive, and acceptable Preacher; while there are few who surpass him in the earnest and untiring performance of the duties connected with pastoral visitation.

Wherever he has hitherto laboured, Mr. McIlraith has recommended himself to the affectionate respect of the people committed to his charge, by his able and faithful discharge of his professional duties. And from what I know of his character, temper, habits, talents, and attainments, I feel confident that he has only to be placed in a parochial charge, in order speedily to prove himself one of the most active and efficient Ministers of the Church of Scotland.

J. McCULLOCH,  
Minister.

From the Rev. Mathew Cochrane,  
Minister of St. Peter's Parish, Glasgow.

GLASGOW, 12th APRIL, 1854.

The Rev. John McIlraith has been known to me for many years. I have had frequent opportunities of hearing him preach; and I am able to say that in my opinion, he professes pulpit gifts of no mean order. His views of Christian doctrine are sound and practical, while his felicitous mode of illustration, and his earnest manner of delivery, seldom fail both to interest and instruct the people.

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