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324 Sherbrooke St. West,
Montreal, June 16th, 1921

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I have much pleasure in writing a few lines of appreciation of Professor John P. Stephen as a teacher of Elocution because I have known him for many years, and have heard him spoken of in terms of high regard not only by his teacher, John Andrew, and by Dr. Robins, whose opinion should carry much weight, but also-- and this is an essential point--by those whom he has taught.... He does not aim at stagey and stilted effects. He treats his subject in a large and natural manner and avoids the artificial and pestiferous thing known as declamation.

The only way to produce good speaking and good reading--above all, good reading--is to awaken genuine feeling in a student and to encourage the faculty of thoughtful personal interpretation and not the ability to express formal and sham emotion. That is what Professor Stephen honestly and earnestly sets himself to do. And I may add that I speak on this subject of Elocution from much practice and experience.

Let me add, further, that if the English spoken in Canada is to be saved from utter vulgarity and debasement, in public and equally in private utterance (and it is, in fact, deteriorating rapidly) some definite and decided steps will have to be taken by those in a position to counteract the evil. What Henry James said in a scathing address on English speech delivered to the women of a leading American college--Vassar or Bryn Mawr, I forget at the moment which--should be taken to heart by every one who thinks his own personal quality and his noble linguistic heritage matters of importance.

(Signed) Chas. E. Moyse,
Vice Principal Emeritus of McGill University
and Molson Professor Emeritus of the
English Language and Literature.