

III.

From the Rev. GEORGE ROMANES, M.A., formerly Professor of Classical Literature in Queen's College.

Richmond, Surrey, March 23rd 1857.

I am very happy to learn that you have resolved to become a candidate for the Chair of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, and Church History in Queen's College, because I am sure that your election to that office would greatly tend to the advancement of the interests both of the College and of the Church in Canada.

During my residence in Kingston I had ample opportunities of forming an estimate of your talents and attainments and of your moral and religious character; and in all these respects there was no one who stood higher, either in my own estimation, or in that of the community, and especially of those who were most intimately acquainted with you.

From the constant and diligent attention, which during the years you have been at Niagara, you have devoted to the study of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, I feel confident that your previous attainments have been greatly increased, while your studious tastes and habits, added to your high sense of duty, are an assurance that, if appointed to the chair, you will continue to advance in every requirement necessary for the improvement of your students.

Considering the purposes for which the University was chiefly designed, it is certain that the inculcation upon the minds of the students, of pure Evangelical Truth, the exercise of Christian influence on them, and on the country at large, and the exhibition of firm principle combined with amiability of temper, are as important requisites in the character of a professor as scholarship itself; and if these are important requisites in all the professors, they must be still more essential in one who is to unfold, as far as possible, the exact and full meaning of the very words of Divine Inspiration, and to show the bearings and connections of the great events in the history of the Church.

Your being a comparatively young man, may, in the opinion of some, be an objection to your appointment. But I have always been of opinion that it is much better to select for public offices, men in the vigour of life, whose powers may be expected to improve, instead of deteriorating. I have known professors who seemed to regard their chairs merely as a kind of honourable resting place, and who by no means fulfilled the expectations which their former fame had raised.