

TESTIMONIALS.

I.

From the Rev. P. C. CAMPBELL, D.D., Principal of the University, and King's College of Aberdeen, and formerly Professor of Classical Literature in Queen's College.

Understanding that the Rev. J. B. Mowat, M.A., of Niagara, intends to offer himself as a candidate for the Chair of Church History Biblical Criticism, and Hebrew in Queen's College, I feel it to be alike a duty and a pleasure to express the high opinion I entertain of his qualifications for such an office.

Mr. Mowat attended my classes during the three sessions in which I occupied the Chair of Classical Literature in Queen's College, having previously resided with me at Brockville and studied privately under me for half a year. I had thus the most ample opportunities of forming an opinion of his character and talents.

I never had a student,—never, indeed, knew a young man,—of whom, in every respect, I could speak with greater confidence, or in higher and more unqualified terms. His ardour and diligence in all his studies were such as, with abilities very inferior to his, would have led to high attainments; combined, as they were, in his case, with superior talents and a singularly well-balanced mind, they led to rapid progress and distinguished success.

Mr. Mowat's great characteristics as a student were a remarkable moral and intellectual solidity and sterlingness; a conscientious dislike of everything superficial, plausible and showy; a rigorous self-discipline, and love of accuracy and truth. He advanced rapidly, however, but never without leaving clean and solid work behind him. At the same time, his exercises, both in prose and in verse, manifested great talent in turning his knowledge to account. They were marked by a fertility of ideas, a correctness of thought, a command of language, and a maturity of taste, not commonly found in young men.

I saw Mr. Mowat, and heard much of him, when he was a student of divinity in the University of Edinburgh; and I know that he maintained there the same high character as at Queen's College.

I was not surprised to learn that he had selected the study of the original text of the Old and New Testaments as his favourite employment. It is a study for which he possesses a very peculiar aptitude, from the accuracy and extent of his early studies in the languages, and his singular love and power of discriminating truth from error,—a quality, the importance of which cannot possibly be overrated, in any one whose province it is, in these days, to interpret to Theological Students the Record of Revelation. His field of study in this department has, I have reason to believe, been much more thoroughly cultivated than is at all common, even among our most studious ministers; and I cannot but think that, in Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, it will be difficult to find one better qualified than he is, to conduct the studies of Candidates for the University.

Should the choice of the Trustees fall upon him, both they and the students will have the inexpressible comfort of knowing that nothing will be delivered, from the important Chair now vacant, but the ripe products of severe and conscientious investigation, elaborated by a sound judgment, under a deep sense of responsibility.

Of Mr. Mowat's character as a man and a minister, I need say nothing;—they are well known to the Trustees, and render it certain that it will be his aim that the students committed to his care shall be characterized by that piety, that diligence, those ~~solid~~ attainments, and that constant direction of their thoughts and studies to the great work of the sacred office, by which, when a student, he was himself so remarkably distinguished.

ABERDEEN, 19th March, 1857.

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