

I have the honour to be
 My Lord
 Your Lordship's
 Most obedient Servant
 R. H. Bonnycastle
 Captⁿ. Royal Engineers.

The Rt. Honble.
 Lord Glenelg
 &c &c &c

Endorsed—1836 Jan^y. 13 Capt Bonnycastle, R.E. in behalf of his brother whose Memorial he encloses—for the place of Astronomer in U. Canada.

Q. 394-1.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

p. 141.

Dec^r. 22^d. 1835.

My Lord,

His Excellency Sir John Colborne having been good enough to inform me that it is the intention of the British Government to appoint an Astronomer in Upper Canada, and having with great kindness, expressed himself in favour of an application on my part, I have been induced to present myself as a candidate for the situation.

The emolument of my present Professorship, £1100 a year, seems to be considerably greater than the salary proposed, but as the office is under the Government of my own country, and is expressly created for the advancement of objects to which I have dedicated my whole attention, I should not hesitate about the sacrifice of a few hundred a year.

The recent suggestion of the British Association for the Promotion of Science, —to erect in various parts of the world, observatories for making magnetic and meteorological observations may probably have been the occasion of the appointment contemplated. Proceeding on this belief, I (p. 142) have thought myself not altogether unqualified for the station. Educated by the Admiralty for mathematical pursuits nearly connected with that branch of the service, and long devoted to the study of magnetism, I succeeded about a dozen years since in first developing the theory since further completed by Poisson & others. The notice which my publication of this theory attracted and the instant adoption of it by so competent a judge as Professor Barlow of Woolwich, leads me to suppose that I should be regarded as qualified to pursue this important branch of an observer's duties. With respect to the purely astronomical department I must appeal to the accompanying certificates. Constantly employed in this University in teaching the highest branches of the theory of Astronomy, and assisted in the practice by the command of a small observatory furnished under my directions with a few excellent Instruments I have possessed the opportunities necessary for acquiring a proficiency in this subject.

For testimonials of a more general character—I appeal to Professor Barlow of Woolwich—to the Work in Geometry which I have published in this Country, and to the accompanying papers; the latter of which will go to prove that in the offices (p. 143) of Professor of Natural Philosophy, Professor of Mathematics and Chairman, I have received whilst at this University, the full approbation of those whose duty it was to scrutinize my conduct. The fact that in an Institution