

Testimonials in favour of Richard Poole, M.D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Contributors

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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

RICHARD POOLE, M. D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
EDINBURGH, &c. &c.

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RICHARD POOLE, M.D.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF

EDINBURGH &c. &c.

R20122

TO THE
JOINT BOARDS OF MANAGERS AND VISITERS
OF THE
BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG leave most respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics in the Institution under your care, and to request your consideration of the following documents in support of my claims to that distinguished office. I am conscious of zeal, at least, in the cause of useful learning ; and my habits of life, together with the materials which I have amassed during many years of study, are such as to impart to me a degree of cheerful confidence in the prospect of being honoured by your approval.

*It were easy for me to multiply Testimonials, did I not conscientiously think myself bound to exercise forbearance in this respect. You will give me credit for this remark, when I mention, that, besides my extensive and intimate acquaintance with literary men, I have repeatedly occupied situations of a public nature, and now hold two *, in this metropolis.*

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient humble servant,

RICHARD POOLE.

EDINBURGH, }
23d May 1829.

* Secretary to the Edinburgh Subscription Library, and Vice-President of the Medical Provident Institution of Scotland.

JOINT BOARD OF MANAGERS AND VISITORS
OF THE
BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION

GENTLEMEN,

I enclose herewith respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy and Mathematics in the Institution under your care, and to request your consideration of the following documents in support of my claims to that distinguished office. I am conscious of zeal, and I trust, in the cause of useful learning; and my habits of life, together with the maintenance which I have maintained during many years of study, are such as to impart to me a degree of cheerful confidence in the prospect of being favoured by your approval.

It may seem for me to multiply testimonials, did I not conscientiously think myself bound to secure assistance in this respect. You will give me credit for this remark, when I mention that, besides my extensive and laboured acquaintance with literary men, I have repeatedly occupied situations of a private nature, and have held two, in this university.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient humble servant,

RICHARD POOLE.

Belfast,
24th May 1820.

* Present to the Edinburgh University Library, and Vice-President of the Medical Professor Institution of Scotland.

ADVERTISEMENT.

As the following Testimonials relate to different periods and circumstances in the life of the Candidate, he has thought proper to intersperse them with Explanatory Notes, in the form of narrative. These, he imagines, will be found of some value, in enabling the Electors to form a just estimate of his qualifications for the office to which he aspires; while, regarding himself as a stranger in Belfast, and probably little if at all known to any of those individuals who have the right of voting and deciding on this occasion, he conceives them quite essential in the way of information as to his personal history. He trusts, that, taken in conjunction with them, the Testimonials will be deemed of sufficient importance to save him from the charge of presumption in becoming a Candidate, and entitle him to some portion of respect, though, in the discharge of a high and very influential duty, the Electors give their suffrages to another. It is for them to justify their award, on grounds commensurate with the nature and the reputation of the Institution, and aloof from private motives, which, if ascertained to have been effectually operative, must injure its rising character, and arrest the ambition of worthy men, who might be otherwise induced, in the event of future vacancies, to offer their services in its behalf. A decision, fairly borne out by weight of qualifications and

superiority of distinction, on the contrary, while it will be cheerfully acquiesced in by unsuccessful applicants, cannot fail to secure an increase of utility and consequence.

Dr POOLE will only say, in conclusion, that, resting entirely on his share of the endowments, natural and acquired, which are universally admitted to be called for, in the exercise of such an office, he is prepared to undergo any trial which may be judged conducive to the appreciation of his fitness for the Professorship now vacant in the Belfast Institution.

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TESTIMONIALS,

&c. &c.

DR POOLE, while a medical student in the University of Edinburgh, commenced his career as an author by the Essay on BOSCOVICH'S System of Philosophy, published in the fourth edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica. It relates chiefly to the views of physical science entertained by that very illustrious man, but also touches incidentally on various points of a metaphysical nature, and enters somewhat fully into the principles of Inductive Logic, as supporting or invalidating the peculiar doctrines under consideration. This essay was honoured by the approbation of several very competent judges, more especially by the late Dr GREGORY, well known to have taken delight in mathematical and metaphysical disquisitions; the late Professor PLAYFAIR, a man equally eminent for talents and estimable in private life; Mr DUGALD STEWART, then holding with distinguished repute the Professorship of Moral Philosophy in the same University; and the Reverend Mr ALISON, the elegant and amiable author of an Essay on Taste, &c. From this last gentleman he received the following note:

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I return you my best thanks for the very interesting memoir you have done me the honour to present to me; and I cannot but very sincerely congratulate you, not only on the progress you have so early made in science, but still more on the just views you have acquired of the true principles of philosophical investigation.

“ With such acquisitions, and on such principles, you enter the career of science with every circumstance that can justify

the hope of success ; and I entreat leave to assure you, that no one will remain more anxious than myself, that your labours may do honour to your name, and extend the limits of knowledge. I am, with great esteem and affection, dear Sir, your much obliged and very faithful servant,

A. ALISON.

Burntsfield Links."

Mr ALISON, in addition to much kindness, introduced Dr POOLE to Professor STEWART, from whom he received several proofs of regard, during his attendance on the lectures of that celebrated philosopher, and long afterwards. In evidence, he thinks himself now at liberty to quote from a letter addressed to him, when engaged in a periodical work, a portion of which, for a particular reason, he had transmitted to Mr STEWART. The article alluded to in it was a Review of Dr BROWN's Physiology of the Mind.

" DEAR SIR,

Kinneil House, 15th June 1820.

" I beg you to accept of my best thanks for your kind attention in sending me the last number of your Review. From the favourable account you give of *one* of the articles contained in it, I have no doubt of its merits ; and, had it related to any other subject, I should have had much pleasure in complying with your request. But, not having yet looked into the work which has given occasion to this article, I was not in a condition to profit by the strictures of your friend ; and I have, therefore, been forced to delay the perusal of them, till I shall have more leisure than I have at present any prospect of soon enjoying. I am now far advanced in years, and have but a short time left for completing those tasks for which some of your critical brethren are pleased to represent me as *pledged* to the public. May I add to this (in confidence to yourself), that, not having taken up very lightly my philosophical opinions, I cannot afford to waste my time in the study of new theories, which profess to accomplish a complete revolution in that branch of science to which I have devoted the best part of my life ? I must, therefore, during my few remaining years, content myself with plodding on in the beaten track, and with treading,

as far as I can, in the footsteps of those humbler guides whom it has hitherto been my ambition to follow. Another consideration also weighs with me not a little. The affection which I have always felt for Dr BROWN's amiable qualities, and the well-known exertions which I made to introduce him into the University, impose on me, now that he is unfortunately no more, a complete silence with respect to his speculations; and I must, therefore, where there is any difference between us in our views, trust to the operation of time in establishing the truth.

"I am glad to find, from your letter, that the literary adventure in which you are engaged is likely to prosper; and, with my best wishes for your success in this and in all your undertakings, I remain, dear Sir, your most obedient and faithful servant,

"DUGALD STEWART."

In conducting the Journal referred to by Mr STEWART, Dr POOLE had the assistance of several very able men, with whom he carried on a correspondence, embracing the most important topics of the day. He may particularly mention the names of the Reverend GEORGE CROLY, author of various works of high character in the literary world; the Reverend HARTWELL HORNE, whose learned and valuable introduction to Scripture, &c. is extensively known; the Reverend FROGNAL DIBDIN, whose numerous publications have obtained remarkable notoriety; the Reverend Dr M. RUSSELL, the Reverend C. H. TERROT, and the Reverend JOHN WALKER, all of them distinguished by talents and learning; Dr JOHN MACCULLOCH, one of the ablest and most enterprising writers of his day; JOHN GALT, Esq., author of several novels and other works in polite literature; JAMES BROWNE, Esq. LL. D., whose talents and critical sagacity have enriched various periodical publications; Mr CARLYLE, an erudite German scholar, and a very eloquent writer; the Reverend Principal MACFARLANE of Glasgow; the Reverend Dr BRUNTON, Professor of Hebrew, &c.; Mr DUNBAR, Professor of Greek in the University of Edinburgh; with the Reverend Dr DICKSON of the same City;—individuals justly estimable for extensive acquirements, and of eminence in differ-

ent departments of literature. From his epistolary intercourse with these persons, and many others of distinguished character, were he justified in publicly availing himself of it, Dr POOLE could furnish commendatory materials for a much larger space than he ventures to fill on the present occasion. He alludes to it in this general manner, as a proof of his holding at least some rank, and a name, in the republic of letters. Documents to the same effect, but of a more patent kind, may now be adduced; and several of these will be found to bear specially on the province allotted to a Professor of Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics.

Dr POOLE was one of the three chief contributors to the *Encyclopædia Edinensis* *, in which, besides providing many articles of a miscellaneous nature, he occupied substantially the department of intellectual and logical science. Accordingly, he wrote for that work the essays on BEAUTY, BIOGRAPHY, EDUCATION, LANGUAGE, MIND, PHILOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, and PHRENOLOGY, together with those on ARCHITECTURE, ACOUSTICS, HERALDRY, HISTORY, and MATHEMATICS, to which might be added many more,—amounting in all to a sixth part of the entire work in which they appeared. One of these Essays, namely, that on Education, was subsequently published in a separate form, at the suggestion of several persons, in whose opinion of its merits and probable utility, it would have been mere prudery in him not to have acquiesced. He dedicated it, in this shape, to his much esteemed friend Mr ALISON, who was pleased to deliver his sentiments regarding it in the following terms:

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ You must, long ere this, have accused me both of insensibility and ingratitude, for not having expressed my sense of the distinguished honour you have lately conferred on me. However late, you will not refuse, I trust, to receive my very humble and very grateful thanks, for the distinction you have been pleased to confer upon me; and you will not think them less

* See the Preface to that Work.

sincere, when I acknowledge that it was as undeserved as it was unexpected.

“ With regard to the work itself, I opened it with much expectation ; and, although I have been able to give it only a hasty perusal, I have the satisfaction of finding in it all that I expected,—much independence and originality of thought, great refinement, as well as justness, of observation, and that high and exalted piety, which is ever the best key to the science of man, and the surest guide in all attempts at his improvement.—With these sentiments, you will, I trust, believe, that some better feelings of my mind than those of vanity were gratified by your Dedication,—and that I must consider it an honour to have my name associated with a work of such a character.

“ To the world, my dear sir, may it be productive of all the usefulness which your own benevolence can wish : and to yourself may it be productive of all the benefits, both present and future, which they deserve who devote their powers of mind to the great ends for which they were given !

“ I have the honour to be, with all the sentiments of the most sincere and respectful affection, my dear sir, your much obliged and most faithful humble servant,

“ A. ALISON.

GREENHILL HOUSE,
Nov. 11. 1825.”

This Essay on Education was most favourably received in various quarters, private and public. Dr POOLE had congratulatory acknowledgments regarding it from several individuals,—as Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, then engaged in a work on the same subject ; T. F. BUXTON, Esq. M. P. ; Dr ABERCROMBIE ; GEORGE COMBE, Esq. ; Dr THOMAS HANCOCK, author of an Essay on Instinct, and other works, &c. &c. From the published opinions of its merits, he may make a few extracts :

“ This little work was originally published in the form of an Essay, in, we believe, the Edinburgh Encyclopædia (Encyc. Edinensis). In consequence of the favourable reception it met with there, the author was encouraged to bring it before the public in its present shape ; and we conceive that, in doing so,

he has bestowed a favour of some importance on the interests of that great art which is at present attracting an unprecedented, but not a disproportionate, share of attention from the community,—the ART OF EDUCATION. The work is pervaded by a character of strong good sense and sound feeling, and is conceived in a uniformly practical tone, which shews the author to have thought and observed for himself. The style of the production, in one or two passages, though a little ambitious, is very vigorous and clear, and occasionally rises to eloquence. In a word, the whole character of the Essay is such as to impress us with a feeling of respect for Dr POOLE's opinions, even when we differ from them, as those of an able, well-informed, and virtuous mind."—*The Edinburgh Star*, Nov. 15. 1825.

The criticism on the same work, in the *Edinburgh Observer*, is no less liberal as to its general merits; but, proceeding on some mistake as to the author's primary positions, and the peculiar nature of his Essay, qualifies commendation with sundry strictures, which, though in themselves judicious, would scarcely have appeared, had either been rightly appreciated.

—"The volume before us discovers considerable research, an attentive and patient observation of facts, and much excellence of moral sentiment.—In these remarks, we have considered Dr POOLE's work as an Essay on *Education*, and have expressed our opinion of it simply as such. But we have no hesitation in saying, that, considered as a collection of distinct Essays on various subjects, it is entitled to very considerable praise. The author has undoubtedly the merit of having laid down and illustrated a variety of sound and useful principles, and condensed a good deal of interesting information on several important subjects. The style of the work is good, for the most part is perspicuous, and throughout easy and agreeable."—*Edin. Observ.* 8th Nov. 1825.

"Dr POOLE subdivides the subject of Education, and treats it in the following order: 1. Education of Children in general. 2. Education of the Defective. 3. Education of the Criminal. 4. Education of the Poor. 5. Education of the Adult and the Aged.

“ We have heard the author charged with attempting too much within the bounds of one small volume, inasmuch as any one of these classes would have furnished matter for an ample treatise. But, in his preface, the author promises *details* in another volume, while his first is a code of *principles*,—the principles of education in its widest sense; and, in the application of these, none of the enumerated classes could have been omitted.”

“ We wish we could, as we must not, quote a tithe of the excellent sense which the author, in language always elegant, and often eloquent, writes on the danger as well as the folly of the extravagant pretensions and expectations of ambitious parents, in the matter of the advancement in life of their children.

“ In the application of his principles to moral and religious training, the author never loses sight of the springs of human actions, nor of the gradation in value and importance established among them, as well by the manifest design of the Creator as by his Revelation. The animal propensities are the lowest in the scale; Self Esteem and Love of Approbation are a grade higher, although still selfish and undignified in their unrestrained operations; but it is Conscientiousness, Benevolence, and Veneration, which must conduce to the true dignity and happiness of man. The comprehensive precept of Scripture, “ to do *justly*, to love *mercy*, and to walk *humbly* with thy God,” points out the cultivation of the three last mentioned sentiments, and the repression of the two first, the great opposites of humility.—Vice and violence, selfishness and pride, the offspring of the animal part of human nature, are kept within their legitimate bounds by the higher sentiments allied with reflection. It is, therefore, that even average education indirectly strengthens these sentiments, and that vice and crime are more rare with the educated than with the ignorant. Nay, the progressive civilization of nations is but another word for the progressive ascendancy of the higher over the lower faculties of man.”

“ The method of training the defective is already known, and detailed by Dr POOLE, with some interesting suggestions of his own, for improving the curious art which addresses a system of

signs to the sense of touch in the blind, sight in the deaf, and both sight and touch in the deaf and blind, whereby their minds may be improved.

“The views with regard to the imbecile are, in so far as we know, Dr POOLE’s own. He speaks with a just and eloquent indignation of the custom which consigns them to the routine of charity work-houses, but with urgent and vehement reprobation,—appealing to every sentiment which distinguishes civilization from barbarism, when he indicts the public for tolerating “the objectless and staring perambulations” of those wretched beings in our streets, scarcely covered from the weather, and still less protected from the harsher inclemencies of an insulting and prostituted superiority.”

“Dr POOLE’s views of the much-agitated question of prison-discipline are among the soundest and most satisfactory we have met with.

“On the principle that the poor are endowed with the usual elements of our nature, the author concludes that these must be cultivated in the same manner as the same elements in their more fortunate fellow men;—but always with a special reference to the useful purposes of life. He strongly recommends moral training, to engage the poor firmly on the side of truth and duty. The infant schools are invaluable to this end. Humanely as well as sensibly, he would assign the labouring poor more time for air and exercise; render their apprenticeships shorter, and confined to teaching them their trades, not to general drudgery,—give them aid in knowing the demand of labourers in different trades all over the country,—and put into their hands the Scriptures themselves, and not conceited commentaries upon them,—the chief causes of schisms and unchristian controversies.

“Last of all, the author successfully shews, that the adult, and even the aged, are amenable to the laws on which all sound education must proceed; and points out to them one grand ruling principle, which, while it is so comprehensive as to be applicable to every intelligent and responsible individual, is more remarkably called for as the guide of those who, emerged

from ordinary education, and reputed at least their own masters, have to contend with the difficulties, and to experience the sorrows, of life. But it is great injustice to abridge the exposition of his views, in which there is much original thinking, and as profound as novel speculation."—*Phrenological Journal*, vol. iii. p. 171. *et seq.* published in 1826.

The last commendatory notice of the Essay which he will quote is of a more general kind :

"Dr POOLE has published several interesting treatises on various departments of literature and science. All of them do honour to his talents as an author, and to his feelings as a man ; and, in both respects, the present Essay on Education seems likely to add to his reputation. Within a small compass it contains much valuable information on a very interesting subject, and is well worthy of general attention. At the same time, if any one shall open the book, in expectation of finding a particular plan of study recommended, or a defence of any fashionable system of instruction, he will be much disappointed. The author has had a different object in view. Leaving all fanciful theories—each to take its turn in the public favour—he confines himself to such general views and observations as cannot fail to be useful at all times ; and, having thus laid a solid and firm foundation, he leaves it to others to rear an edifice corresponding to their rank and pursuits in life. On all the topics—various as they are,—which he discusses, we meet with the suggestions of sound judgment, confirmed by the result of extensive experience."—*Edinburgh Saturday Post*, 5th April 1828.

The other Essays, contributed by Dr POOLE to the *Encyclopædia Edinensis*, have been hitherto confined to that work ; and, in consequence, have, with little exception, simply shared in its general fortune, which has been highly gratifying. One of them, indeed, has received a special and very prominent notice in the second volume of "*Anti-Tooke*," one of the profoundest of the works, on the Philosophy of Speech and the Science of Grammar, which have appeared in modern times. The article thus alluded to is PHILOLOGY, which, among other

matter, presents an analytical review of the first volume of the publication now named. In the second, which followed at the distance of two or three years, Mr FEARN, with whom Dr POOLE has had a very interesting correspondence on the subject, speaks in the following manner :

“ The tenor of the whole article is such as claims my particular respect. I shall avail myself, therefore, of the present occasion to supply or explain whatever may have been wanting in the part of my work, to which the strictures of this writer apply.

“ I consider it due to the writer in question, to express my great satisfaction at his fairness, as well as his competency, in the delineation which he has given of my views in general. From the thorough tact which he has evinced, in apprehending the details of the principles laid down, I should be wanting in justice were I not to afford him the acknowledgment, that, were there hereafter occasion to explain any matter in this work, and it were put beyond my own hand to discharge this office, I know of no individual who, I think, could execute the task with so much probability of entering into my particular conception of the subject.”—*Anti-Tooke*, vol. ii. Pag. 305–316. London, 1827.

Of the high commendations privately bestowed by Mr FEARN, Dr POOLE forbears to avail himself; but he may state, that he understands he is similarly referred to by that gentleman, in one of the recent publications connected with the Memoirs of the celebrated Dr PARR, which, however, he has not yet had an opportunity to examine.

In place of other public testimonials, the accumulation of which would transgress all reasonable bounds, Dr POOLE will now advert to sources of a more private kind, the import of which, he is well convinced, cannot be deteriorated by the peculiarity of the circumstances in which they originated. These will be easily understood, after the perusal of the following letter, which was addressed by him to the President and Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh :

“ 1. EAST BROUGHTON STREET,
5th June 1828.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I avail myself of the Extraordinary Meeting of the College, called for to-morrow, to submit a request entirely of a personal nature.

“ An apparently eligible and promising situation has been offered to me, that of successor to a physician at Ipswich in Suffolk, where it is my intention to proceed forthwith, in order to make some necessary inquiries, and, probably, arrangements for future residence. I am, however, a stranger to the place, and, consequently, feel anxious to possess documents, which may at least merit a degree of respect from professional men. The vote of thanks with which the College honoured me is of high estimation in my own mind, and, assuredly, would be appreciated by others. I venture, therefore, to solicit permission to have an excerpt from the minutes in which it is recorded, under the signature of the President, or other Officer of the College, to be used by me as circumstances may require; and, I trust, that, in asking for it, I shall be held as expressing my regard and affection for the body, whose kindness has prompted, as it justifies, the wish thus intimated.

“ I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your very obedient faithful servant,
RICH^d. POOLE.”

This request was most readily granted, as the documents in Dr POOLE's possession very honourably testify. On the same occasion, he was favoured with various testimonials from individuals of deserved eminence in their profession. For example; from Dr ABERCROMBIE, whose friendship it has long been his happiness to enjoy. He expressed himself as follows:

—“ Dr POOLE has been known to me for many years, and I have always entertained the highest opinion, both of his personal character, and of his literary and professional acquirements. As a physician, I consider him as extensively acquainted with the literature of his profession, and amply qualified, both by judgment, discrimination, and experience, for the practice of it. In general literature, his acquirements are both profound and vari-

ous; and his general character is such as entitles him to the respect and confidence of all those with whom he may be connected."

From Dr HOME.

"DEAR SIR,

Edinburgh, 12th June 1828.

"I have to assure you I shall, at any time, be happy in giving my testimony of the very high opinion which I entertain of your acquirements and abilities in your profession; of your general talents; and of your character, which stands high in my opinion as a gentleman, and as a person who has sustained, during your residence here, a high reputation,—and whose departure will be regretted by all, as one who was likely to be an ornament to the profession in this place. Wishing you every success, believe me to be, DEAR SIR, your's most sincerely,

"JAMES HOME, M. D.

Prof. of Practice of Medicine,
University of Edinburgh."

From Dr HAMILTON.

"EDINBURGH, 23. ST ANDREW'S SQUARE,

"MY DEAR SIR,

7th June 1828.

"It would, I assure you, afford me sincere satisfaction if I could, by my personal exertions, forward your views. Enclosed you will receive such a testimonial as I hope may answer; but if you wish the sentiments expressed in different words, I am quite ready to alter the form of the testimonial in any way you may desire. With my good wishes for your future prosperity, I remain, DEAR SIR, your's sincerely,

"JAS. HAMILTON."

"I do hereby testify, that I have been for many years acquainted with Dr RICHARD POOLE; that it consists with my knowledge, that, after having had a regular medical education at this University, he settled in this city as a general practitioner; that he has uniformly conducted himself with the strict-

est propriety ; and that, from the frequent opportunities which I have had of meeting him in consultation, I consider Dr POOLE to be a most active, intelligent, and attentive practitioner.

“ Witness my hand and seal, this 7th day of June 1828, at Edinburgh.

JAS. HAMILTON, M. D.

Prof. of Medicine, Midwifery, &c.
University of Edinburgh.”

From Dr MORISON, President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Lecturer on Mental Diseases, &c. Author of works on Insanity, &c.

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ I have enclosed you letters to two of the Magistrates of the county of Suffolk. In doing so, I cannot help expressing my sincere regret, that our College is about to lose, as a resident Member, one whom I highly esteem, both on account of mild and amiable manners, and of very superior professional attainments,—combined with a temperate and clear-headed mode of conducting business, so fully evinced in the important discussions that have taken place in the College of Physicians, since I have had the honour of presiding there. That your undertaking may be attended with the greatest success, is the heartfelt wish of, my dear Sir, your’s most sincerely,

“ ALEX. MORISON.

“ 27th June 1828.”

From Mr ALISON.

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ I should very sincerely lament any thing that removed you from Edinburgh, if I did not rejoice at any change which can add either to your usefulness or your fame.

“ I have no connection (that I can think of) with Suffolk ; and I cannot flatter myself with the hope of being of use to you there. But, if fortune should offer to you any channel, where you think my esteem could be of any service, I flatter myself you will not withhold from me the happiness of employing it.

" I beg leave to enclose a letter to Mr CAMPBELL *. Whether he can at present receive it, after the sad calamity which has lately befallen him, in the loss of his wife, I am unable to guess. But, when he is able to read it, I am convinced that you will find in him a person as well disposed to further your interests, as he is capable of estimating your merits.

It is very needless, I trust, to assure you of my best wishes for your health and prosperity, and that of all your family ; and if, at any time, my name shall be recalled to your memory, I entreat you to believe that I am then, as I have ever been, My dear Sir, your affectionate friend, and very faithful servant,
A. ALISON."

FROM THOMAS CAMPBELL, Esq., &c. &c.

" You are, to my conviction, a most respectable, accomplished, and talented man ; and you have been introduced to me by Mr ALISON, one of the very dearest and oldest of my friends.

" I shall be most happy to have for a contributor a gentleman, whose character I have heard of from other quarters, and to whom I cordially subscribe the sincere respects of

" THOMAS CAMPBELL."

FROM DR MONCRIEFF, Librarian to the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, &c. &c.

PHYSICIANS' HALL,

" MY DEAR SIR, *Edinburgh, 26th June 1828.*

I take leave to inform you, that several of the Resident Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, taking into consideration your very able and zealous services in behalf of the College, and deeming their thanks alone quite insufficient to mark the high sense they entertain of your talents, combined as they are with both public and private worth, have devolved on me the pleasing duty to request your acceptance of the accompany-

* Author of "The Pleasures of Hope," &c.

ing Snuff-box, with an enclosure of L. 200 Sterling; and, I assure you, that it affords me peculiar gratification to obey the commands of my brethren. It has been thought more advisable to transmit to you the money than any piece of plate of the same value, as you may perhaps find it more useful in your present circumstances.

“Before concluding, allow me to express the regret which we all feel in the prospect of your departure from Edinburgh; and believe me, that, if you leave us, you carry with you our best wishes for your future prosperity and happiness. I have the honour to be, with sentiments of true regard, your sincere friend,

WILLIAM MONCRIEFF.”

P. S.—“As it may be a gratification to you to know the names of the gentlemen who have united in presenting the accompanying tribute of their friendship, I shall copy them, viz. :

Dr JOHN ABERCROMBIE,
J. H. DAVIDSON,
ROBERT RENTON,
WILLIAM MONCRIEFF,
WALTER ADAM,
WILLIAM BEILBY,
JAMES HAMILTON *jun.*,
JOHN MACWHIRTER,
JAMES WOOD,
W. P. ALISON,
JAMES BUCHAN,
ROBERT GRAHAM,
JAMES HOME,
THOMAS SPENS,

Dr THOMAS CHARLES HOPE,
ANDREW DUNCAN *sen.*,
ANDREW DUNCAN *jun.*,
ROBERT CHRISTISON,
EDWARD TURNER,
RICHARD MADDOCK HAWLEY,
ALEXANDER MONRO,
THOMAS SHORTT,
EBENEZER GAIRDNER,
EDWARD MILLIGAN,
GEORGE AUGUSTUS BORTHWICK,
JOHN THATCHER,
ALEXANDER MORISON,
JOHN WARROCK PURSELL.”

On a testimonial, so unexpectedly munificent and persuasory, Dr POOLE feels it is equally vain and superfluous for him to attempt offering any commentary. He will only observe, therefore, that this list of names comprehends those of the Professors of the Practice of Physic, the Theory &c. of Physic, Chemistry, Anatomy and Surgery, Midwifery, Materia Medica, Botany, and Medical Jurisprudence; together with those of other individuals, engaged either in teaching various branches of Medical Science, or in extensive practice, and holding distinguished

“ MY DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, 15th May 1829.

“ I am glad of this opportunity of bearing my testimony, however feebly, to your superior qualifications for the Moral Chair of Belfast. I have been so much in the habit of benefiting, both intellectually and morally, by you, that I feel it a privilege to be enabled, even partially, to pay you back, and so easily as I now do, by merely declaring the *nature* of my obligations to you.

“ I do not believe there are many who have enriched their metaphysical stores by a more ample or elegant endowment of belles lettres, nor many who are enabled to draw their arguments and illustrations from a wider field of human knowledge.

“ I can say that I have never applied to you for information on any subject, however unexpected by you, or *recherché* in itself, that you did not tell me *where* I should find it treated, and, moreover, *how* I should find it treated; and, from my own experience, I cannot imagine the Students at Belfast more profitably and pleasingly instructed than they will be, if they are fortunate enough to have you for their Professor.

“ I shall, in the last mentioned event, have one regret,—namely, losing your society in Edinburgh, where your mild and gentlemanlike manners, and high moral worth, have, for ten years, given me reason to value you as one of my most highly prized friends. I am, my dear Sir, with sincere esteem, your's very faithfully,

JAMES SIMPSON,”

(Advocate.)

“ DEAR SIR, EDINBURGH, 18th May 1829.

“ It is certainly very little that any thing I can say will add to the weight of the honourable testimonies in your favour which you have communicated to me. But in so far as it may be of any value to you, it gives me great pleasure to state, that, from my intercourse with you for some time past, in regard to the investigation of the rights of the College of Physicians, and from all I know of your scientific and professional acquirements, I am fully convinced that you are well qualified for the situation to which you aspire; and I have no doubt you will,

if appointed, discharge the duties of it with honour to yourself, and eminent advantage to the Institution.

“ Believe me to be, Dear Sir, your's very sincerely,

“ JAMES W. MONCRIEFF *.”

MY DEAR SIR,

Edinburgh, 19th May 1829.

IN writing a testimonial, I consider myself as acting under a grave moral responsibility, and must, therefore, state what I conceive to be your imperfections, (as who is free from imperfections?) as well as your excellent qualities.

“ Your mind, then, appears to me to be naturally too discursive, and your pursuits through life have rather increased than checked the strength of this bias. In consequence, with great talents, much natural activity, and a vast fund of valuable and miscellaneous information, you appear to me not to have attained that eminence as a philosopher and author, which such gifts, aided by such industry, ought, but for this cause, to have commanded.

I am aware that the circumstances in which you have been placed have too often not left you the selection of the subjects of your study, nor the leisure necessary for perfecting your compositions; and, in judging of the results, due allowance ought to be made for these great disadvantages.

“ To state your excellent qualities is a more pleasing duty, and I can now do so with perfect sincerity, so far as my own judgment extends.

As already mentioned, your stores of information on subjects of literature and science are various and extensive; and, on Moral Philosophy in particular, your reading appears to me to have embraced every work of any eminence that has hitherto appeared. You have also reflected deeply on the first principles of morals, founded on the constitution of the human mind; and you appear to me to possess clear and correct views of the limits where these terminate, and artificial regulations commence. Your style as an author, when

* The Dean of Faculty—now, it is understood, about to be elevated to the Bench.

time is allowed you for regular composition, is elegant, copious, and clear ; and your oral delivery is marked by great sauvity and grace. Finally, the gentleness of your temper, the habitual courtesy of your manners, your active benevolence, and high sense of moral obligation, have rendered your dispositions the delight of all persons who have the honour of your acquaintance. On the whole, therefore, taking you with all abatements, I do not know where the Directors of the Belfast Institution could find a Professor of Moral Philosophy freer from the failings inherent in humanity, and possessing more positive excellence to counterbalance those which attach to him. Wishing you all success, I remain, my dear Sir, most sincerely your's,

“ GEORGE COMBE.”

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 and clear; and your oral delivery is marked by great animation
 and force. Finally, the gentleness of your temper, the habit
 and courtesy of your manners, your active benevolence, and
 high sense of moral obligation, have rendered your dispositions
 the object of the esteem and affection of all persons who have the honor of your acquaintance.
 (3) The whole, therefore, taking you with all its elements,
 I do not know where the influence of the Great Institution
 could find a more perfect illustration than in your life.
 This is evident in the purity, and possessing such positive ex-
 cellence to recommend it to all which attach to it. Weaving
 all together, I cannot but think that your life is a perfect

example to all who are called to follow in your footsteps.
 I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 Wm. L. Garrison

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.
 and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the
 proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, your obedient
 servant,
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The following Letter came too late to be noticed
in the Table of Contents.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ I HAVE read several of your publications, and am aware, from other sources, of your extensive knowledge, and habitual devotion to science and literature. In all your speculations, I have observed a singular clearness and sagacity, together with a vein of warm and unaffected philanthropy, and a deep sense of religion. I have no doubt, therefore, that you are well qualified for a Teacher in such a seminary as the Belfast Institution ; and am persuaded that your labours, in the station to which you aspire, must prove equally acceptable to your pupils and learned associates.

“ With every wish for your success and happiness, believe me always,

DEAR SIR,

Your very faithful and obedient servant,

“ F. JEFFREY.”

“ 24 MORAY PLACE, }
31st May 1829. }

“ To Dr POOLE, &c. &c.”

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your pupils and learned associates.

With every wish for your success and happiness, believe
me, Sir, to be,

Dear Sir,

I am very respectfully and obediently yours,

E. J. JEFFREY.

At New York,
24th Nov. 1830.

T. D. Paine, Esq.



