

**Letter of application with statement and letters in support of Isaac Bayley Balfour, M.A. (Oxon.), ..., candidate for the Chair of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh.**

**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
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# LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH STATEMENT

AND LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF

## ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR,

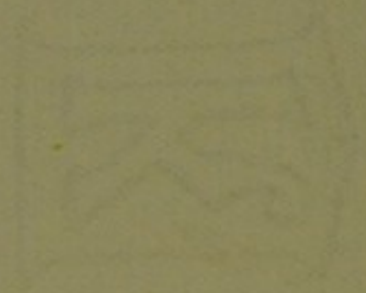
M.A. (OXON.), D.Sc. (EDIN.), M.D., C.M. (EDIN.), F.R.S., F.R.S.E., F.L.S., F.G.S.,  
DEUTSCH. BOT. GESELLSCH. CORRESP.;

FELLOW OF ST MARY MAGDALEN COLLEGE, AND SHERARDIAN PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD;  
CURATOR OF THE UNIVERSITY PARKS IN OXFORD; EXAMINER IN BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITIES OF EDINBURGH, OF  
CAMBRIDGE, AND OF LONDON; EDITOR OF "ANNALS OF BOTANY;" *formerly* REGIUS PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE  
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW; EXAMINER IN BOTANY IN VICTORIA UNIVERSITY; BAXTER SCHOLAR IN NATURAL SCIENCE,  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH; BOTANIST AND GEOLOGIST TO THE GOVERNMENT "TRANSIT OF VENUS" EXPEDITION TO  
RODRIGUEZ; PRESIDENT OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH;

CANDIDATE FOR THE CHAIR OF MEDICINE AND BOTANY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

LETTER OF APPLICATION WITH STATEMENT

ISAAC BAYLEY HALLOR





*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

FAIRACRES, OXFORD, 9th January 1888.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the Chair of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Dr Alexander Dickson.

I shall, at an early date, submit for your consideration a statement of my qualifications for the appointment.

I am,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR,

*Sherardian Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford.*

Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh, 20th January 1851

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the Chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of the late Professor.

I shall, at an early date, submit for your consideration a statement of my qualifications for the appointment.

I am,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ISAAC BAYLEY BAILEY

Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.



*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

FAIRACRES, OXFORD, 8th February 1888.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

In a letter to you of the 9th ultimo, I offered myself as a Candidate for the Chair of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Dr Alexander Dickson, at the same time promising to submit a statement as to my qualifications for the appointment. I now beg leave to lay before you this statement in the form of an epitome of my scientific life.

I was born in 1853, and am a Graduate in Science and in Medicine of the University of Edinburgh, in both with Honours.

Whilst prosecuting my studies at this University I devoted special attention to the Natural Sciences, more particularly to Botany. I obtained the degree of B.Sc. in 1873; was Baxter Scholar in Natural Science, 1873-75; and graduated D.Sc. in Botany in 1875. In 1877 I took the degrees of M.B. and C.M., and in 1883 that of M.D., when I obtained a Gold Medal for a Thesis on a Botanical Subject.

After graduation in 1877 at the University of Edinburgh, I visited several of the Botanical Schools in France and Germany, and worked for some months in the Botanical Laboratories at Strassburg, and at Würzburg, under Professor de Bary and Professor Sachs.

From 1871 to 1878 I acted as an Assistant to my father, Dr J. H. Balfour, then Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

From 1875 to 1878 I was Assistant to the Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh; for two of those years under Professor Huxley, when he occupied the Chair in room of Sir Wyville Thomson (then absent with the "Challenger" Expedition), and for two under Sir Wyville Thomson himself.

From 1873 to 1878 I lectured annually on Botany to Students of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.

In 1876, and again in 1878, I was appointed by the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh, with the consent of the University Court, to act as Deputy Professor of Botany for my father, who was in bad health; and I performed the whole duties of the Professor of Botany in the former year for a period of six weeks, in the latter during the whole session.

In 1879, when Dr Alexander Dickson was elected to the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, I was appointed by the Crown to the Chair of Botany he had previously held in the University of Glasgow.

In 1884, I was appointed Sherardian Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford, with care of the Botanic Garden and Botanical Collections, and this appointment I now hold. In Michaelmas Term 1887, I acted as Deputy for the Professor of Geology, and gave a Course of Lectures on Palaeophytology. I am a Curator of the University Parks in Oxford.



I am Examiner in Botany in the Universities of Edinburgh, of Cambridge, and of London. From 1885-86 I was Examiner in Botany in Victoria University. I was also Examiner in Botany in the University of Edinburgh from 1878-79.

In 1884, I was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of London. In 1883, I was elected corresponding member of the German Botanical Society. I am also Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of the Linnean Society, and of the Geological Society. In 1882-1883, I was President of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. In 1881, I was Vice-President of the Geographical Section of the British Association at York, and in 1885 Vice-President of the Biological Section at Aberdeen.

In 1874, I was appointed by the Royal Society of London Botanist and Geologist to the "Transit of Venus" Expedition to Rodriguez. The report of my explorations of the Island is published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. In 1880, I made a scientific exploration of the Island of Socotra for the Royal Society and the British Association. An account of the Botany of the Island forms a volume of *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Besides the memoirs upon the results of my foreign explorations, I have contributed articles to various botanical publications. I have also edited for the Oxford University Press an English edition of "Goebel's Outlines of Classification and Special Morphology of Plants," of "De Bary's Comparative Morphology and Biology of Fungi, Mycetoza, and Bacteria," and of "De Bary's Lectures on Bacteria;" and I am at present editing English editions of "Solms'-Laubachs Introduction to Palæophytology," and "Sachs's History of Botany." On the invitation of M. De Candolle, I am preparing a monograph on Artocarpeæ, to form a volume of the supplement to "De Candolle's Prodrômus."

In 1887, in conjunction with Dr Vines of Cambridge, and other botanists, I was instrumental in starting a new Botanical Journal in Britain—*The Annals of Botany*—of which I am one of the Editors.

Copies of some of the more important of my works I send with this statement.

In support of my candidature I am permitted to refer to leading botanists and botanical teachers in the country, and other scientific friends who have personal knowledge of me and my work, whose names are attached to the letters to you which I am allowed to send along with this. I also forward letters to you from the President of St Mary Magdalen College and the Heads of the Universities with which I have been connected as Professor.

Should you appoint me to the Chair of Medicine and Botany in Edinburgh, I should endeavour to fulfil efficiently the duties belonging to the office.

I am,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR



## LIST OF BOTANICAL PUBLICATIONS.

---

ON A NEW GENUS OF TURNERACEÆ FROM RODRIGUEZ.

Linnean Society's Journal of Botany, vol. xv.

ASPECTS OF THE PHÆNOGAMIC VEGETATION OF RODRIGUEZ.

Linnean Society's Journal of Botany, vol. xvi.

PALMÆ AND PANDANÆ OF THE MASCARENE ISLANDS AND THE SEYCHELLES.

Government "Flora of Mauritius and Seychelles," by J. G. Baker.

MORREN'S VIEWS ON VEGETABLE DIGESTION.

Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, vol. xiii.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE GENUS PANDANUS.

Linnean Society's Journal of Botany, vol. xvii.

ON THE GENUS HALOPHILA.

Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, vol. xiii, with five plates.

THE BOTANY OF RODRIGUEZ.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, vol. 168, with twenty-two Plates.

SOME RESEMBLANCES BETWIXT PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN RESPECT OF THEIR NUTRITION.

The Glasgow Medical Journal, 1879.

PLANT-PATHOLOGY AS A FIELD FOR RESEARCH. Glasgow, 1881.

DIAGNOSES PLANTARUM NOVARUM PHANEROGAMARUM SOCOTRENSIUM.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vols. xi and xii.

PRINGSHEIM'S RESEARCHES ON CHLOROPHYLL.

Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, vol. xxii, with two plates. Translated and condensed.

ON THE ISLAND OF SOCOTRA.

Report of the British Association, 1881.

ON THE ISLAND OF SOCOTRA AND ITS RECENT REVELATIONS.

Transactions of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 1883.

BOTANY OF SOCOTRA.

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vol. xxxi, with one hundred plates.

GOEBEL'S OUTLINES OF CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIAL MORPHOLOGY OF PLANTS.

English Edition, revised. Oxford, 1885.

DE BARY'S COMPARATIVE MORPHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY OF FUNGI, MYCETOZOA, AND BACTERIA.

English Edition, revised. Oxford, 1886.

DE BARY'S LECTURES ON BACTERIA.

English Edition, revised. Oxford, 1887.

Also Short Notes in various Botanical Journals.





*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

JANUARY 1888.

MY LORDS AND SIRS,

We have the honour to inform you that we learn from Dr Bayley Balfour, the Sherardian Professor in the University of Oxford, that he is a candidate for the Professorship of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.

We have expressed our willingness to allow Professor Balfour to use our names as those of persons who cordially support his candidature. But we understand that it is customary to lay before the Curators some testimony of a more definite kind.

We therefore desire to state that while we should regret Professor Balfour's removal from a more Southern University in which he has shown such evident proofs of capacity, we feel that in the interests of botanical science there is no candidate who is more fitted, by ability as a teacher and by zeal and devotion to his subject, to occupy the most important and prominent botanical position in Scotland.

We are,

MY LORDS AND SIRS,

Your obedient Servants,

JOS. D. HOOKER, F.R.S., late Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.

W. T. THISELTON DYER, F.R.S., Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.

D. OLIVER, F.R.S., Keeper of the Kew Herbarium, Royal Gardens, Kew.

D. MORRIS, F.L.S., Assistant-Director, Royal Gardens, Kew.

J. G. BAKER, F.R.S., Principal Assistant, Herbarium, Kew.

C. B. CLARKE, F.R.S.

B. DAYDON JACKSON, Secretary, Linnean Society, London.

CHARLES C. BABINGTON, F.R.S., Professor of Botany at Cambridge.

WALTER GARDINER, Demonstrator of Botany, Cambridge.

M. FOSTER, Secretary, Royal Society.

FRANCIS DARWIN, F.R.S., Lecturer on Botany in the University of Cambridge.

SYDNEY H. VINES, F.R.S., Reader in Botany in the University of Cambridge.

GEORGE HENSLOW, F.L.S., Professor of Botany, Queen's College, London.



WILLIAM CRAWFORD WILLIAMSON, F.R.S., Professor of Botany in the Victoria University.

T. LAUDER BRUNTON, F.R.S., Lecturer on Materia Medica at St Bartholomew's Hospital London.

JOHN LUBBOCK, F.R.S., M.P., late President of the Linnean Society.

H. MARSHALL WARD, F.L.S., Professor of Botany, Cooper's Hill.

ED. PERCEVAL WRIGHT, F.L.S., Professor of Botany in the University of Dublin.

MARCUS HARTOG, F.R.U.I., Professor of Natural History, Queen's College, Cork.

T. G. BONNEY, F.R.S., Professor of Geology in University College, London.

JOSEPH LISTER, F.R.S.

E. RAY LANKESTER, F.R.S., Jodrell Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at University College, London.

MAXWELL T. MASTERS, F.R.S.

F. VICTOR DICKINS, F.L.S., Assistant Registrar of the University of London.

J. FAYRER, F.R.S., Hon. Physician to the Queen.

R. C. A. PRIOR, F.L.S.

WM. STIRLING, Professor of Physiology in the Owen's College and Victoria University, Manchester.

GEO. JAS. ALLMAN, F.R.S., late President of the Linnean Society.

D. H. SCOTT, F.L.S., Assistant Professor in Botany, Normal School of Science and Royal School of Mines, London.

W. HILLHOUSE, F.L.S., Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology in Mason's College, Birmingham.

GEORGE J. ROMANES, F.R.S., Fullerian Professor of Physiology at the Royal Institution.

BARTHOLOMEW PRICE, F.R.S., Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy, Oxford.

J. BURDON SANDERSON, F.R.S., Waynflete Professor of Physiology, Oxford.

JOSEPH PRESTWICH, F.R.S., late Professor of Geology in the University of Oxford.

J. H. GILBERT, F.R.S., Sibthorpian Professor of Rural Economy, Oxford.

JNO. O. WESTWOOD, F.R.S., Hope Professor of Zoology, Oxford.

R. B. CLIFTON, F.R.S., Professor of Experimental Philosophy, Oxford.

WM. ODLING, F.R.S., Waynflete Professor of Chemistry, Oxford.



JANUARY 1888.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Observing that a number of influential Botanists and scientific men in England have chosen the form of a conjoint letter to give support to the candidature of Professor Bayley Balfour for the Chair of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, we accept the opportunity thus afforded to express our concurrence in their testimony to the merits of one who is recognised as among the foremost Botanists of this country.

We may further mention that Professor Bayley Balfour, when he occupied the Chair of Botany in the University of Glasgow, not only earned the confidence of large classes, and elicited for the subject which he taught the enthusiasm of the best students, but made his tenure of office memorable by the untiring energy with which he struggled successfully against obstacles, while devoting himself, in conjunction with the other directors, to the improvement of the Botanic Gardens, obtaining for them their extensive ranges of hothouses, and planning and superintending the details of the construction of these as well as the conversion of the glass building, known as the Kibble Palace, into the admirable Winter Garden which it now is.

It is therefore with pleasure that we testify to the indefatigable strength of purpose and practical ability which Professor Bayley Balfour combines with his scientific reputation as an eminent Botanist.

We have the honour to be,

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN CAIRD, LL.D., Principal of the University of Glasgow.

JAMES KING, Lord Provost of Glasgow.

WILLIAM THOMSON, Prof. Nat. Phil., Glasgow.

JOHN YOUNG, M.D.Edin., Prof. of Natural History, Glasgow.

F. ORPEN BOWER, Regius Professor of Botany, Glasgow.

JOHN G. M'KENDRICK, Professor of Physiology, University of Glasgow.

JOHN FERGUSON, Regius Professor of Chemistry, University of Glasgow.

JOHN CLELAND, Professor of Anatomy, University of Glasgow; Director, Royal Botanic Institution.

W. CONNAL, Chairman of the Royal Botanic Institution of Glasgow.

WILLIAM P. DICKSON, D.D., Professor of Divinity; Director, Royal Botanic Institution, Glasgow.

J. D. MARWICK, LL.D., Town Clerk.

WILLIAM STEWART, Professor of Biblical Criticism, and Clerk of Senate, University of Glasgow.

ARCH. GEIKIE, F.R.S., Director-General of the Geological Surveys of the United Kingdom.

JOHN STRUTHERS, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Aberdeen.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

THE UNIVERSITY, GLASGOW,

*February 3, 1888.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Professor Bayley Balfour was for six years Professor of Botany in this University, and at his request I gladly state what I know of the manner in which he discharged the duties of that office. Though I cannot speak with the authority of an expert, I know from the testimony of competent judges that he was the first to introduce here the more modern system of teaching his science by laboratory in addition to field work; and that by his profound knowledge of his subject, his power of clear and accurate exposition of it, his ungrudging devotion of time and labour to the duties of his Chair, and his ability to stir in the minds of his students an enthusiasm akin to his own, he gave quite a new impulse to the study of Botany in this University. He showed himself at the same time to be cognisant of all that was valuable in the older methods of teaching, and I have heard the opinion expressed by intelligent observers, that of all the younger Botanists, he is perhaps the one who combines most fully a knowledge at once of the older and of the more modern methods of teaching.

In another way also Dr Balfour did a great service to the University, viz., by increasing the facilities for the study of his subject. Mainly by his exertions the resources of the Botanic Gardens for the teaching of Botany were largely developed. He induced the Directors to erect a splendid set of hothouses, which are, I understand, equal, if not superior, to anything in this country outside of Kew, and through his influence and superintendence the Gardens were brought to a state of excellence far beyond anything they had hitherto reached.

From what I know of Dr Balfour's work here, I can have no hesitation in saying that his appointment to the vacant Chair of Botany would be a great gain to the University of Edinburgh.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN CAIRD,

*Principal of the University of Glasgow.*



The University of Kentucky

The University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Ky.

My Dear Mr. Garrison,

Professor Harvey Ballou was the first to introduce to me the University, and at his request I gladly state what I know of the manner in which he managed the duties of that office. Though I cannot speak with the authority of an expert, I can state the testimony of competent judges that he was the first to introduce here the same system of teaching his students by laboratory in addition to their work; and that by his own knowledge of his subject, his power of clear and accurate expression of it, his sympathy with the student and his ability to bring to the student the results of his own researches in the study of history in the laboratory. He showed himself at the same time to be cognizant of all that was valuable in the methods of teaching and I have heard the opinion expressed by intelligent observers that all the younger historians of the present day owe to him the knowledge of the same and of the same modern methods of teaching.

In another way also Dr. Ballou did a great service to the University, viz. by introducing the study of the study of his subject. Mainly by his exertions the resources of the historic gardens of the University were largely developed. He induced the Directors to erect a splendid building, which has I understand, cost it not expense to anything in this country outside of the building, and through his influence and assistance the gardens were brought to a state of perfection far beyond anything they had hitherto reached.

From what I know of Dr. Ballou's work here I can have no hesitation in saying that his position as the first Chairman of History would be a great gain to the University of Kentucky.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CARP

Professor of the University of Kentucky

*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD,

*January 31, 1888.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Mr I. B. Balfour, M.A., has for several years occupied the office of Professor of Botany in this University.

Though I am not in any way competent to form an opinion of his qualifications and his work, yet I am well acquainted with the estimation in which he is held both by his colleagues and his pupils.

I am, therefore, in a position to testify, that Mr Balfour has a general reputation in Oxford of being a very able and successful Professor; that he is believed to have done much to extend the scope of the branches of science which he professed, and to advance the study of them.

I am frequently called upon to meet Mr Balfour on matters of University business. On all such occasions I have found him punctual and attentive, and very clear and instructive in consultation.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. BELLAMY,

*Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.*



The University of Edinburgh

Mr James Thomson, Esq.  
Glasgow, 1881

My dear Sir,

Mr J. Thomson, M.A., has the honour to inform me that the office of  
Secretary of the University of Edinburgh is vacant.

Though I am not in any way competent to form an opinion of his qualifications and his work,  
I am well acquainted with the estimation in which he is held both by his colleagues and his  
superiors.

I am therefore in a position to testify that Mr Thomson has a general reputation in the  
University of Edinburgh and is believed to have done much to advance the  
cause of the University of Edinburgh, and to advance the study of the  
University of Edinburgh.

I am therefore called upon to meet Mr Thomson on matters of University business. On all  
occasions I have found him practical and attentive, and very able and instructive in  
his remarks.

I have the honour to remain

Yours obedient servant,

J. BELLAMY.

The University of Edinburgh

*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.*

ST MARY MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD,  
*January 30, 1888.*

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

My friend Professor Balfour tells me that he has decided to become a candidate for the Chair of Botany, now vacant at Edinburgh, and asks me to write a few words supporting his candidature in my double capacity as President of Magdalen College, of which as Botany Professor he has been a Fellow, and as Chairman of the Board of Curators of the Botanical Garden.

I feel it to be an honour to support the candidature of Professor Balfour. I wish I were myself better able to do justice to him. Of his unusually high qualifications as a botanist, except so far as they are a matter of common knowledge, I cannot profess to be competent to speak. I heard his inaugural lecture, and well remember the lucidity and directness and interest of his exposition. I know from the testimony of those who have worked with him, older or younger, what is their sense of his own great attainment and ability, and of his power of communicating knowledge, energy, and the love of science and of good scientific work. In his management of the Garden I have seen for myself his business capacity, his keenness and thoroughness and good judgment; and both there, and meeting him as a Fellow of the College, I have had experience of his frank good temper and readiness to help in all matters which came in his way.

On these, to say nothing of personal grounds, while I can well understand that Professor Balfour should feel that Edinburgh has peculiar claims of more than one kind on his services should she desire them, I should myself heartily endorse what I hear so many saying around me, that if he should go to Edinburgh it will be a great loss to Oxford, where his value was every year being increasingly felt, and where, in so short a time comparatively, he had already done so much, and gave promise of doing so much more.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS HERBERT WARREN,

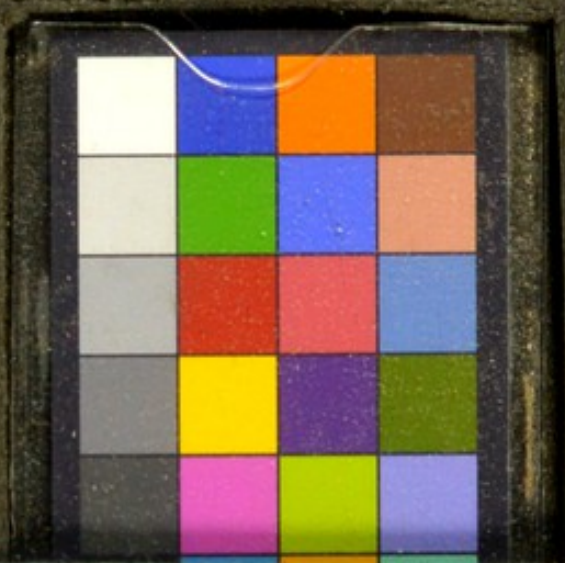
*President of St Mary Magdalen College, Oxford ;  
Chairman of the Curators of the Botanic Garden, Oxford.*











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