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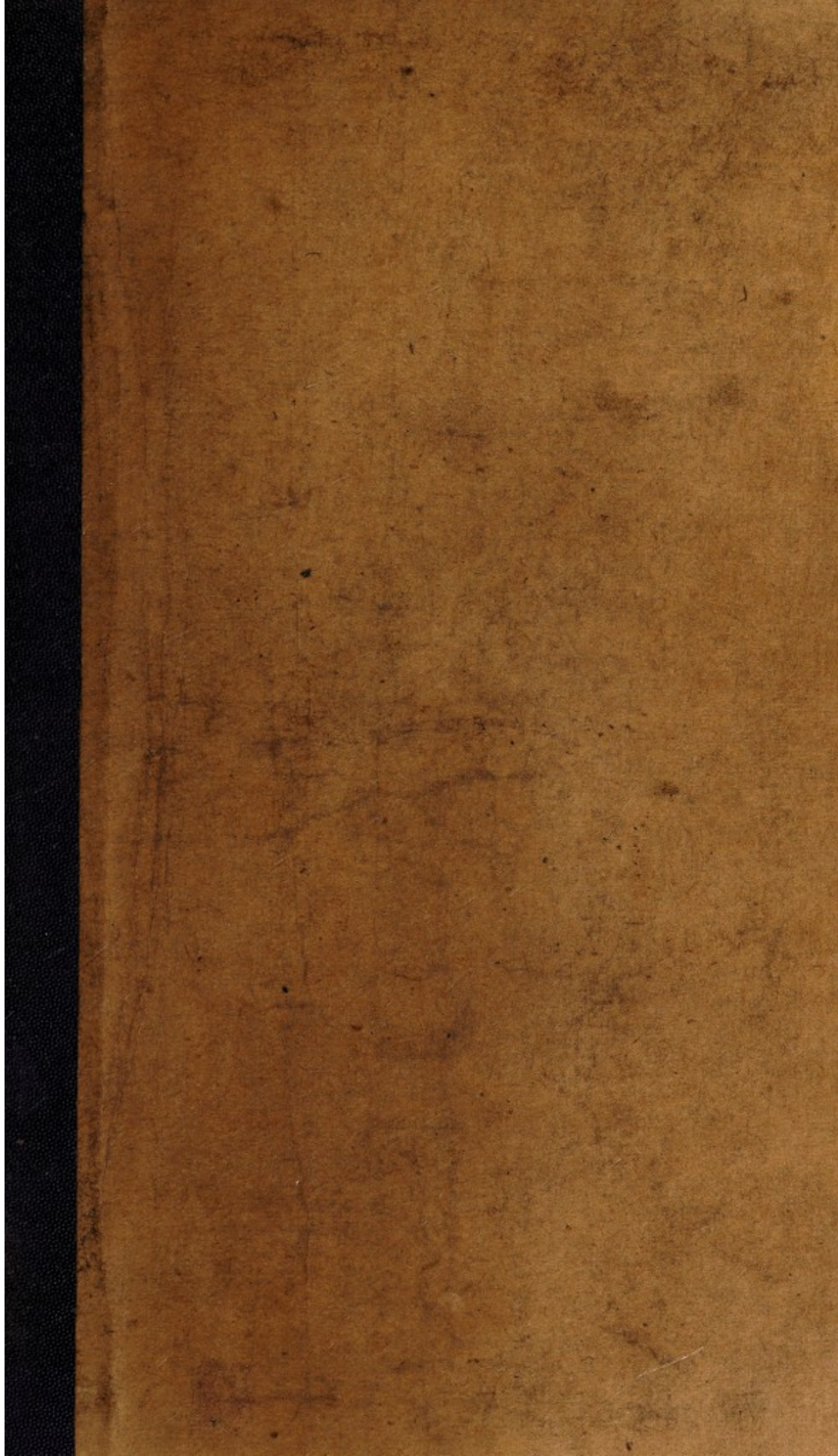
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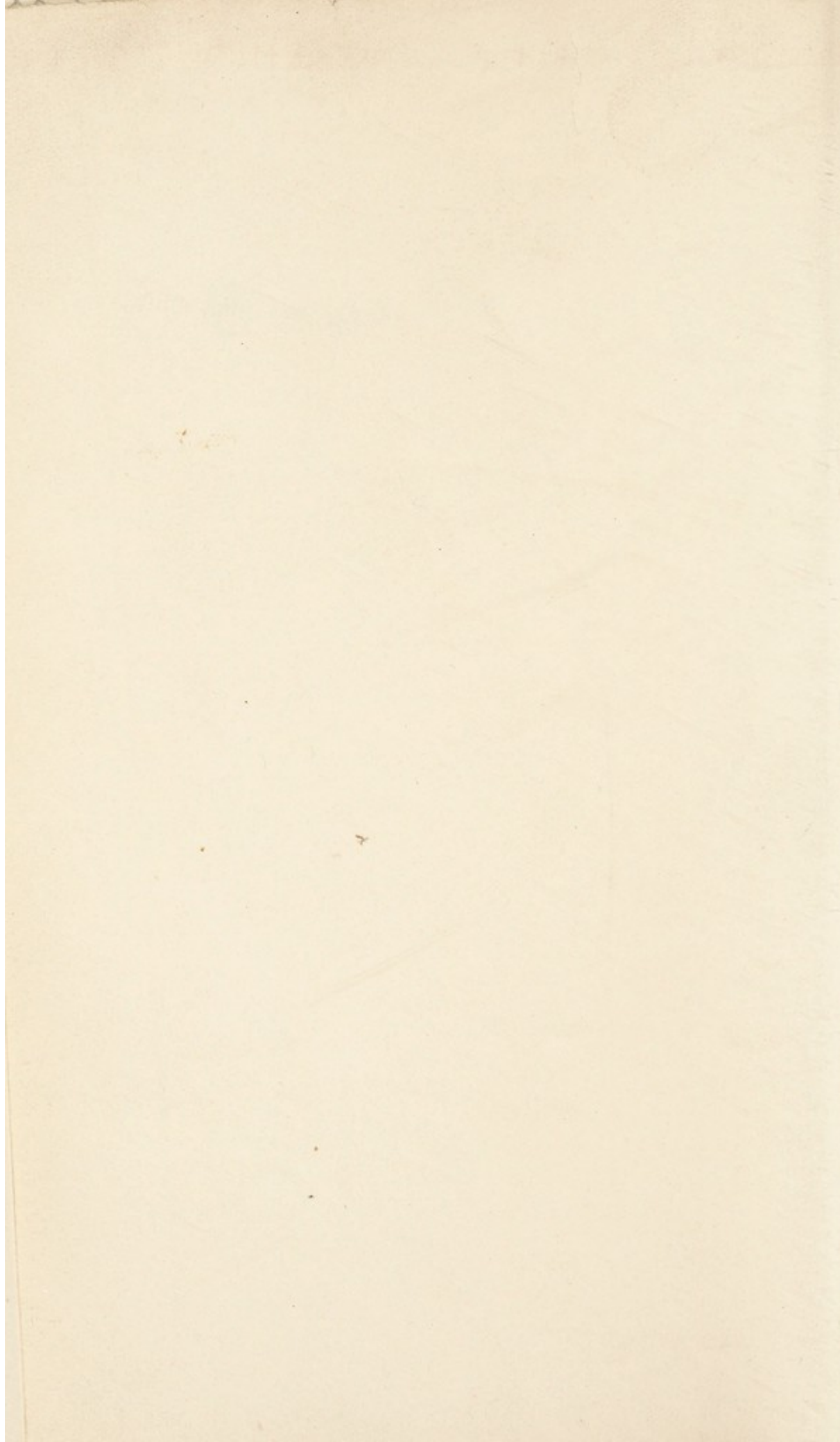




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# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JAMES D. FORBES, F. R. SS. L. & E., F. G. S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS  
FOR SCOTLAND, AND HONORARY MEMBER OF THE YORKSHIRE  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,



AS A CANDIDATE FOR

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

MDCCCXXXII.





## TESTIMONIALS.

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE LORD PROVOST OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH.

MY LORD,

EDINBURGH, *December 21, 1832.*

I WAS about to leave Geneva in the prosecution of an extended scientific tour, when I received the accounts of the lamented death of my friend Sir JOHN LESLIE. I immediately set out on my return, having been apprised that I had been proposed as a Candidate for the vacant Chair, in consequence of a wish which I had expressed to that effect before leaving home, but certainly little imagining that it would so soon require to be acted upon.

I had not heard of any other Candidates, nor was it till I got to Paris that I learnt that possibly Sir DAVID BREWSTER might be of the number. No one can have more unfeigned respect and admiration for Sir DAVID BREWSTER's scientific attainments than I have, and no one, I think, would suppose me capable of putting myself, *in that respect*, for a moment in competition with him. Had I been at home at the time, so as to have been aware of his intention from the first, it is possible that many circumstances might have prevented me from coming forward on this occasion. But as Scientific Celebrity is, in the opinion of the best judges, far from being the principal, much less the sole, qualification necessary, and as there were other Competitors in the field, I did not feel it to be incumbent upon me to abandon the great object to which so many of my scientific friends encouraged me to aspire, or to refrain from submitting my pretensions to the consideration of the Patrons.

The value of the Testimonials to which this letter is prefixed, depends entirely upon the character of those who thus lend the weight of their names to establish the qualifications of a candidate; and in the body of evidence which I now present, I believe that your



Lordship will find the names of a large proportion of the philosophers of acknowledged eminence who at present uphold the scientific character of Britain.

I feel that the claims which I may have to the important situation to which I aspire are better established by such testimony, than by any statement of my own pretensions; and I hope that these documents will be considered of sufficient weight to prove that I possess, to a certain extent at least, the various qualifications which are required to fill it. I am far from thinking that a competent knowledge of the subjects of instruction is all that is wanted to form a good teacher. I conceive that a practical prosecution of some of the varied ramifications of Physical science is indispensable, as well as a study of those general views which it belongs to an advanced stage of systematic knowledge to develop, which can seldom be done to advantage without practical acquaintance with details. To this, I believe, I may, in most branches of Physics, lay claim, to a greater or less extent; and in the opportunities I have enjoyed of cultivating the acquaintance of men eminent in various departments of science in London, and at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, I have not neglected the acquisition of those general views, which are so difficult to be attained in solitary study.

With regard to the power of imparting knowledge, no one, perhaps, is a competent judge as regards himself. But, so far as opportunity has been afforded for deciding upon my qualifications in this respect, I willingly appeal to the Testimonials of those persons who have had the best means of judging. I feel assured, too, that the time of life at which, if successful, I should enter upon the duties of the Chair, is that at which this power is most easily and efficiently developed, and which is peculiarly favourable to the energetic and conscientious discharge of so important a trust. This opinion seems also to be that of a great proportion of the Patrons with whom I have conversed, as well as of those eminent men actually engaged in tuition in the various Universities of Britain, who have honoured me with Testimonials; I may be permitted to allude in particular to those of Mr WHEWELL of Cambridge, and Professors CHRISTISON and BELL of Edinburgh.



This is not the place to develope my views as to the mode of teaching the Class of Natural Philosophy. The subject has, however, very frequently engaged my attention ever since I commenced my studies in that Class under my late distinguished friend Sir JOHN LESLIE; and in my recent tour on the Continent, I was at pains to examine the practice of other academic Institutions. I should feel it a great object of ambition to raise, if possible, the character of this most important Class, and to foster the taste for some of the higher acquirements in science which we have long been reproached with not sufficiently cultivating in our Universities,—a fact of which Sir JOHN LESLIE was well aware, and of which he has often complained to me. This attempt, to which I pledge myself, in the event of my being the successful candidate, is one in itself so unlikely to remunerate the labour which it would require, that it can be expected from no one who looks to the Class of Natural Philosophy in a purely professional point of view, or who is not prepared to consider the labour of teaching a pleasure, instead of undervaluing the dignity of the situation, as it has sometimes been the custom among men of scientific eminence to do.

With regard to Foreign Testimonials, the letters from Brussels and Geneva, which I subjoin, are to be considered as the fruits of a very short tour; my immediate return to this country having been rendered necessary by the unexpected death of Sir JOHN LESLIE.

With almost all the individuals whose testimonials are here given, my connexion has been purely scientific. Among those with whom I have been more intimately connected, and who have come forward on the present occasion with the utmost readiness to support my claims, none more require my cordial thanks than the Professors of our own University. Their approbation has been gratifying to me, and will doubtless have weight with your Lordship, as few are more competent to judge of my qualifications, or have better means of knowing what is essential to support the character of this important office. When collecting these certificates, I naturally felt desirous to bring before your Lordship some proof of the position in which I stood in the estimation of the eminent person whose Chair now stands vacant. The testimony which has been afforded to me

by some of his colleagues in the University, fortunately renders it unnecessary to rest any assertions on the subject on my own authority. I may, however, be permitted to state, that, ever since I began to study under Sir JOHN LESLIE, I enjoyed his confidence and friendship ; and had frequent intercourse with him on scientific subjects up to the period of my leaving Scotland last summer for the Continent. One of the last occasions of communication which I had with him was upon the electro-magnetic inquiries which engaged my attention about that time, and he was the first Professor in the University who witnessed the electric spark, which I obtained from Dr HOPE's magnet—an experiment which greatly delighted him, and of which he gave an account in his class. I may add (though other testimony will be borne to it), that he himself informed me in 1830, that, had he been able to accomplish his intention of going abroad the succeeding winter, it was his wish that I should have officiated for him during his absence.

I fear I have been too diffuse in these preliminary statements. I shall not therefore longer defer the conclusion ; but shall only add, that I am willing to rest my claim, on the one hand, on the Testimonials now brought forward, and, on the other, on my solemn assurance of the zeal and industry with which, in event of my success, I shall strive to advance the true interests of an University with which some of the most interesting associations, as well as the most valued friendships of my life, have been closely connected.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

JAMES D. FORBES.



[*The following TESTIMONIALS from Sir JOHN HERSCHEL and Dr BUCKLAND having been received too late to be properly placed, are inserted here.*]

*LETTER from Sir JOHN F. W. HERSCHEL, K. H.*

SIR,

SLOUGH, Dec. 17, 1832.

AT the time you first mentioned to me your brother's intention of coming forward as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Natural Philosophy in Edinburgh, I was little aware of the importance which could become attached to the unofficially stated opinions of persons no way connected with the University, respecting the scientific pretensions of Candidates; and am not, therefore, surprised that, in my reply to your letter, I should have adopted a language and manner which, although expressive of the highest and most emphatic approbation of your brother's talents, attainments, and individual qualities, so far as the latter have fallen under my own cognizance, you should have regarded as in some degree confidential, and have hesitated to publish among those testimonials which I find have been circulated.

Adopting no *side* on the occasion, and entertaining the highest personal respect for more than one of your brother's opponents, I can yet assuredly feel not the slightest hesitation, on this or any other occasion, in doing the most open justice to the opinion I really entertain of his distinguished merit. In my reply to your letter alluded to, I stated that I considered your brother as marked by Nature for scientific distinction, if he should continue to aim at its attainment. I adhere to the expression; and having, in consequence of the interest attaching to this matter, been led to an attentive re-perusal of his meteorological and magnetic researches, as well

as of many of his earlier papers, I must say that I find this impression greatly strengthened and confirmed, by the evidence they afford of a most valuable union of careful diligence in the observation of facts, and just philosophic views in combining and reasoning on them, together with a remarkably extensive knowledge of the investigations of predecessors and contemporaries in a great variety of different branches of inquiry. Such qualities, sustained by the spirit and vigour of youth, and by his inherent devotion to science, must ensure him, ere long, whatever be his success in the present instance, a prominent name among those whom the country regards as the supporters of its scientific character.

I remain,

SIR,

Your very obedient Servant,

J. F. W. HERSCHEL.

Sir J. S. FORBES, Bart.

---

*Extracts from previous LETTERS of Sir JOHN HERSCHEL.*

THERE is no consideration which ought to debar me from freely expressing the high estimation in which, ever since the commencement of my acquaintance with your brother, I have learned continually more and more to regard him. My personal intercourse with him has, indeed, not been great, owing to the distance of our residences; but almost from his first introduction to me, and in our subsequent correspondence, I have thought I perceived in him those characters of mind and disposition which would insure him the attainment of a high rank in point of scientific eminence, should he be dis-



posed to aspire to it ; and few things have afforded me more real pleasure, than to observe his ardent love for such pursuits, settling into a fixed determination to make them the serious business of his life, and giving more than an earnest of what may hereafter be expected from him, by a series of papers of progressively increasing interest.

\* \* \* \* \*

It would be the height of absurdity to think of raising an objection on the score of *standing*, to one who has already brilliantly distinguished himself, and whose talents and application can only be rendered more precious by the vigour of age to which they are attached.

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*LETTER from the Rev. WILLIAM BUCKLAND, D. D.  
F. R. S. V. P. G. S. &c. Professor of Mineralogy and Geology in the University of Oxford.*

MY DEAR SIR,

OXFORD, 19th December 1832.

I FEEL that many apologies are due from me, both to your brother and yourself, for not replying more speedily to his late letter, informing me that you are a candidate for the Chair lately vacated by Sir JOHN LESLIE ; and I beg to assure you that this delay has arisen only from a sense of the little importance of my testimony to your attainments in those higher branches of science, of which, as I have paid so little attention to them, I am so incompetent to judge. I can, however, state with much truth, that it has rarely occurred to me to have my opinion of the qualifications of any individual for the peculiar duties of a Professional Chair so highly raised, as it assuredly has been in your own case, by the intercourse I have had with you as Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science during the



late meeting at Oxford. Not only was I deeply impressed with the value and masterly execution of your report on Meteorology, but felt fully assured, from the way in which your attainments were spoken of by persons fully competent to appreciate them, that you hold a place of the first order among the scientific men of this country. To your readiness and skill in the management of business arising out of the scientific engagements in which we were occupied together at Oxford during an entire week, I am happy to bear most ample testimony; and I would farther add, that your ardour and zeal, and the facility with which you have the talent of communicating your knowledge to your hearers, and of interesting them in your subject, are, in my opinion, such as add materially to your qualifications for the duties of a public teacher in a University. I beg again to express my regret at the delay which has occurred in my reply to your brother's letter, and remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very truly,

W. BUCKLAND.

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

MR JAMES D. FORBES.

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## I.

*LETTER from JOHN ROBISON, Esq. Secretary to the  
Royal Society of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

ATHOLL CRESCENT, 6th Nov. 1832.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you intend to propose your brother as a candidate for the Chair which has so unexpectedly become vacant; and I should have been most happy to state what I know of the extent and variety of his scientific attainments, were it not that I think it would be presumption in me to say any thing regarding them, when I am sure that ample testimony will be borne to them by persons whose own acknowledged eminence will give weight and value to their judgments in the eyes of the Patrons of the College.

On some other important points I feel myself more com-



petent to speak, as, ever since Mr FORBES's connection with the Royal Society, no person out of his own family can have had closer or more constant opportunities of witnessing the zeal and industry with which he has continued to apply himself to the cultivation of science. They have indeed been such as could have been excited by nothing less than an entire devotion to his object, and a heartfelt love of knowledge for its own sake. That his zeal is as unremitting as it is well-directed, is proved by the nature of the researches he is now engaged in, in the south of Europe, and by the mass of observations he has already accumulated, the results of which, when they come before the public, will do equal credit to his skill and activity.

Permit me to add, what I think every one who has had the pleasure of your brother's acquaintance will agree with me in, that his peculiarly conciliatory manners would give him an important advantage in the communication of instruction to others.

I am,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN ROBISON.

TO CHARLES FORBES, Esq.

## II.

*LETTER from the Rev. W. WHEWELL, M. A., F. R. S. and F. G. S., late Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Cambridge, Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge.*

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

SIR,

Nov. 10, 1832.

It was with great pleasure that I received your information of the intention of your brother to offer himself



as a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy at Edinburgh. I have a very high opinion of your brother's qualifications for this Professorship. On some of the subjects belonging to it,—and those subjects in which most is to be done—he is better acquainted than any one I know with the labours of preceding philosophers, and has prosecuted, with very extraordinary labour and care, important trains of research. I refer in particular to the doctrines of Heat, Moisture, Magnetism, and Meteorological inquiries in general. His laborious and exact measurement of the daily and hourly heights of the barometer, with the detection of the diurnal variation, and his extraction of the electric spark from the natural magnet, is in the recollection of every body acquainted with such subjects. And if his report on the present state of Meteorological knowledge, which I had the pleasure of hearing read before the British Association in June, had been already published, there would have been before the world the most ample evidence of his exact and extensive acquaintance with the literature of this subject. As he is, moreover, an accomplished mathematician, and well acquainted with the analytical labours of the French and English writers on applied mathematics, he appears to me to combine all the attainments which belong to the office. I may mention his notices of the Bay of Naples, where he has connected Physics with Geology: his account of the celebrated puzzle of the temple of Jupiter Serapis is well known, having been in a great measure adopted by Mr Lyell.

I consider his talents and temper no less suited to the Professorship than his attainments. His zeal and devotion to science must be well known to all who know any thing of him; and with youth, health, and strength in his favour, I have no doubt that he will, under any circumstances, distinguish himself in the scientific world. I shall be extremely glad to see him Professor at Edinburgh; for the Chair of

Natural Philosophy there, from the celebrity of the place, and of the persons who have occupied it, is a distinguished situation; and I am sure your brother would occupy it worthily.

Perhaps this personal letter may answer the purpose of a testimonial, and, if so, I shall be glad that you should make use of it for that purpose. If not, have the goodness to inform me what more is wanted. Before I heard of your brother's intention, I had received a letter from Mr RITCHIE, informing me of his being a candidate. I wrote immediately to Mr RITCHIE, stating my opinion of his merits, which letter he will probably use. Believe me,

SIR,

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,

W. WHEWELL.

Sir JOHN S. FORBES, Bart.

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### III.

*From the* REV. BADEN POWELL, M. A., F. R. S., &c. *Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford.*

GENTLEMEN,

OXFORD, Nov. 11, 1832.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq. F. R. S. L. & E., F. G. S. &c. being a candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, now vacant by the lamented death of Sir JOHN LESLIE, and a request having been made to me to offer my testimony in his favour,—although fully aware how little such testimony can add to his claims, already so well known to the Scientific world,—I yet



gladly embrace the opportunity of expressing my conviction of his high qualifications for the office he solicits, founded both on a personal acquaintance, and on his very able scientific productions; and I feel well persuaded that his appointment would do the most ample credit to your choice.

I have the honour to remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very faithful Servant,

BADEN POWELL,

Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford.

To the Right Hon. The LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES, Patrons of the  
University of Edinburgh.

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IV.

*LETTER from the Rev. HENRY CODDINGTON, M. A.,  
Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Cambridge.*

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

Nov. 11, 1832.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING, as one of the Secretaries to the British Association for the advancement of Science, had sufficient opportunities to estimate the attainments of Mr JAMES D. FORBES, I have great pleasure in stating, that I consider him to be extremely well qualified for a Professorship of Natural Philosophy. I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CODDINGTON.

To the LORD PROVOST and  
MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.



## V.

*From* PETER BARLOW, Esq. *M. A., F. R. S. &c. Professor of Mathematics, Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.*

WOOLWICH, November 12, 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

HAVING been informed that Mr JAMES D. FORBES intends offering himself for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy, vacant by the lamented death of Sir JOHN LESLIE, I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the high scientific character which Mr FORBES has already attained, and to the great estimation in which he is held by the principal active Fellows of the Royal Society of London. The energy with which he has hitherto pursued the subjects of Natural Philosophy has eminently qualified him for the Chair he solicits, and gives the best hopes that he will be able to perform the duties of the situation in such a way as will be equally honourable to himself and his country, and advantageous to the University. I have the honour to be,

MY LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient Servant,

PETER BARLOW.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES, The Patrons of  
the University.

## VI.

*LETTER from* Sir THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE,  
*K. C. B., F. R. S. L., President R. S. E., Corresponding  
Member of the Institute of France.*

MAKERSTOUN, KELSO,  
12th Nov. 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM about to take a liberty which I fear you may construe into an intrusion upon my part; but the deep in-

terest I take in science, and the honour I feel, as well as the high respect I entertain, for whatever concerns the University of Edinburgh, of which I have had the honour of being an LL.D. for many years, must plead my apology for thus intruding.

On the lamented death of Professor LESLIE, I turned in my mind who would be the fittest person to succeed him, when it immediately occurred to me that Mr JAMES FORBES was the individual; and I formed my opinion from personal knowledge of his superior talent in every department of science, and particularly the analytical branches. I had also an opportunity of seeing the appearance he made at the great Scientific Meeting at Oxford last year, which was equally distinguishing to himself, as honourable to the country which gave him birth, in the opinion of all who witnessed him on that most memorable occasion. In conclusion, I must beg leave to sum up the whole, by most conscientiously asserting, that I know no one who will be a fitter successor to fill the Chair of Natural Philosophy held by the late Sir JOHN LESLIE than Mr JAMES FORBES.

Trusting, my Lord and Gentlemen, for your forgiveness for thus intruding myself,

I am,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

THO. MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE.

The Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST,  
MAGISTRATES, and PATRONS of  
the University of Edinburgh.



## VII.

*LETTER from JOHN GEORGE CHILDREN, Esq. Secretary  
to the Royal Society, &c. &c.*

BRITISH MUSEUM,  
Nov. 12, 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

HAVING just learned that Mr JAMES D. FORBES intends to offer himself as a candidate for the Chair lately vacant by the death of Sir JOHN LESLIE, I take the liberty, in justice to Mr FORBES, to state, that I believe him to be eminently qualified for the situation he aspires to, and that, if honoured with your patronage, he will be found to fulfil its duties most ably and diligently.

I have the honour to remain,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JOHN GEORGE CHILDREN,

Sec. R. S.

The Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.



## VIII.

*TESTIMONIAL by the* REV. GEORGE PEACOCK, M. A.,  
F. R. S., F. G. S., &c. *Tutor and Fellow of Trinity Col-  
lege, Cambridge.*

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
Nov. 12, 1832.

I AM well acquainted with Mr JAMES D. FORBES, and I have read with great interest and instruction his *Memoirs on Meteorology*, which have been published in the *Edinburgh Transactions*. I also heard a great part of a very elaborate and able report upon the past history and present state of the science of Meteorology, which he read before the British Association at Oxford. Mr FORBES is a good mathematician; he is a most diligent observer, and a skilful experimenter; and he possesses that general and comprehensive acquaintance with the different branches of science, which enables him fully to avail himself of all existing means of prosecuting original researches of the most difficult kind. In fact, I know of few persons who are better qualified by habits of laborious application—by enthusiastic attachment to scientific pursuits,—and by extent and variety of knowledge,—to fill worthily the Chair which lately was occupied by that distinguished philosopher Sir JOHN LESLIE.

GEORGE PEACOCK.

## IX.

From EDWARD TURNER, Esq. *M. D., F. R. S. L. & E. Sec. G. S., Professor of Chemistry, University of London.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON,

November 13, 1832.

THE acquaintance of Mr FORBES with some of the most distinguished Natural Philosophers of Europe, will enable him to adduce far more satisfactory evidence of his qualifications for your vacant Professorship than any testimony which I can offer; but as he is desirous that I should express an opinion, I have much pleasure in complying with his request.

The perusal of Mr FORBES' Philosophical Essays, and frequent conversations with him during the last two years, have impressed me with a high opinion both of his mental powers and of his attainments. He has studied his subjects with much care and success, is a good observer, and possesses that character of intellect which qualifies him for pursuing experimental philosophy with success. Mr FORBES unites with these qualifications two most important requisites for a public station,—an ardent desire of honourable distinction, and a genuine taste for his science. I have no doubt, that Mr FORBES, if successful in his application, will prove no unworthy successor of a PLAYFAIR and a LESLIE, and maintain the well-earned reputation of your *Alma Mater*.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDWARD TURNER.

To the LORD PROVOST and  
MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.



## X.

*LETTER from CHARLES DAUBENY, Esq. M. D., F. R. S.,  
F. G. S., Vice-President of Magdalen College, and Pro-  
fessor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford.*

MY LORD PROVOST,

OXFORD, 13th Nov. 1832.

HAVING been applied to for testimonials in favour of Mr JAMES FORBES, who is a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in your University, I have much pleasure in stating, upon personal knowledge, my full persuasion of his entire competency to that office.

Mr FORBES' acquaintance with those branches of physics which he would have to teach, is generally acknowledged amongst scientific men; and the zeal with which he has pursued science, as well as his extended attainments in it, cannot fail to be estimated even by those who, like myself, have interested themselves deeply in other departments of knowledge than those in which Mr FORBES is chiefly distinguished.

I therefore conceive, that in choosing him, the University of Edinburgh would secure to themselves an able successor to Sir JOHN LESLIE, and to the science of this country an useful auxiliary.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD PROVOST,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

CHARLES DAUBENY.

To the Right Hon.

The LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES.

## XI.

*From G. B. AIRY, Esq. M. A., F. R. Ast. S. &c. Plumian Professor of Astronomy in the University of Cambridge.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

OBSERVATORY, CAMBRIDGE,  
November 13, 1832.

I BEG leave to offer my testimonial in favour of Mr JAMES D. FORBES, now a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Sir JOHN LESLIE.

My acquaintance with Mr FORBES has been entirely of a scientific character, and I can safely assert, that, from no acquaintance of the same length of time, have I derived greater pleasure and instruction. It is scarcely necessary for me to point out that Mr FORBES is well known for his Geological and other observations in Italy; for many Barometrical and other experiments of considerable importance in this country, and in particular for following up with ardour and success the imperfect train of experiments conducted by Mr FARADAY. And I express, not only as my own opinion, but also (as I believe) as the opinion of nearly every person interested in Natural Philosophy, that any circumstance which would connect him professionally with this department of science, would be beneficial to the science, and honourable to the persons who promoted that connexion.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

G. B. AIRY.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.



## XII.

*LETTER from the Rev. WILLIAM VERNON HARCOURT,  
F. R. S. &c. President of the Yorkshire Philosophical  
Society.*

BISHOP THORP, YORK,  
Nov. 15, 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

THOUGH I do not presume to imagine that any recommendation from me can be of weight in the appointment to so important and responsible an office as that of the Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, I must not refuse to bear my humble testimony to the qualifications of my much valued friend Mr JAMES D. FORBES, who, I am informed, is a candidate for that Chair, and to state the very high opinion which I entertain of his talents and acquirements, as far as I am competent to appreciate them; and I must be allowed to add, that I know him to possess a merit of a still higher order in a very rare degree,—the merit of a disinterested devotion to the pursuit of science, and a sincere and ardent zeal for its advancement.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

WM. VERNON HARCOURT.

The LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES,  
The Patrons of the University of Edinburgh.

## XIII.

*LETTER from S. P. RIGAUD, Esq. M. A., F. R. S., F. G. S.,  
Observer, and Savilian Professor of Astronomy in the  
University of Oxford.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN, OBSERVATORY, OXFORD,  
Nov. 16, 1832.

I AM desired to express to you my high opinion of  
Mr FORBES's talents and acquirements, and my persuasion  
that he would be a valuable successor to SIR JOHN LESLIE  
in the Chair of Natural Philosophy.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble Servant,

S. P. RIGAUD.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and the MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh,  
Patrons of the University.

## XIV.

*LETTER from THOMAS ALLAN, Esq. of Lauriston,  
Treasurer, Royal Society, Edinburgh.*

DEAR SIR,

LAURISTON, 19th Nov. 1832.

I WISH I were better qualified to do justice to your  
brother's merits as candidate for the Chair of Natural Phi-  
losophy; but our pursuits having run in very different di-



rections, I feel extremely incompetent to the task. Little, however, as the importance of my opinion may be, I cannot resist your request to add my testimony to those of so many others, who are indeed qualified to offer advice, which cannot fail to be listened to with respect.

You are perhaps not aware it was only last year I had the good fortune to become acquainted with your brother ; but, previous to that time, his name was well known to me, as a young man rising upwards in science.

During the course of last winter, I had an opportunity of witnessing some of his exhibitions at the Royal Society, and was greatly pleased with the ingenuity of his experiments, and the clear and distinct manner in which he explained some of the most difficult points in philosophical research. His youth, activity, and perseverance, strongly entitle us to form the highest expectations of the ability with which he would fill the vacant Chair. I have no hesitation in saying, that, if so fortunate as to meet with the approbation of the Patrons, he will perform the duties of the Professorship with great credit to himself, and satisfaction to the public.

I am,

DEAR SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS ALLAN.

To CHARLES FORBES, Esq.

## XV.

*LETTER from the Rev. W. MILLS, B. D. &c. Tutor and Fellow of Magdalene College, and Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Oxford.*

MAGDALENE COLLEGE, OXFORD.

MY LORD,

November 19. 1832.

I HAVE been requested to state to your Lordship, and the other Magistrates, Patrons of the University of Edinburgh, my opinion respecting the qualifications of Mr JAMES D. FORBES to fill the Chair of Natural Philosophy, vacant by the death of Sir JOHN LESLIE.

I feel that it would be presumptuous in me to testify to the merits of any individual in a branch of knowledge which has never been the particular object of my pursuit, and with which I have no more than the most elementary acquaintance. But, if I may be allowed to mention to your Lordship, and the Magistrates of Edinburgh, the opinions of others, I can most readily bear testimony, that a Report read by Mr FORBES before the British Association, held at Oxford in June last, was such as to create a very strong impression in favour of his abilities and attainments. In a conversation which I had at the time with some of the most competent judges, the name of Mr FORBES was spoken of in high terms, as of a man likely, by his zeal, talents, and sound knowledge, to prove of essential service in the diffusion and advancement of the physical sciences.

I remain,

My LORD,

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,

WM. MILLS, B. D.

Professor of Moral Philosophy.

The Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST.



## XVI.

*LETTER from WILLIAM SNOW HARRIS, Esq. of Plymouth, F. R. SS. L. & E.*

PLYMOUTH, November 22, 1832.

UNDERSTANDING that Mr J. D. Forbes is about to offer himself as a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, vacant in consequence of the lamented decease of Sir JOHN LESLIE; and that he is desirous of obtaining from his scientific friends documents expressing their individual opinions of his qualifications to discharge the duties of so important an office; I am led, under these circumstances, to give my very humble testimony in favour of Mr FORBES, having had the pleasure of some correspondence, and other intercourse, with him, on subjects of natural knowledge, to which I have given much attention. Mr FORBES appears to me to be gifted with that description of mental power which is peculiarly adapted to advance the state of Physico-Mathematical Science,—and which, united to the liberal and enlightened character of a gentleman, seems to give him claims to consideration of no ordinary kind.

WILLIAM SNOW HARRIS.

To the LORD PROVOST and  
MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.

## XVII.

*LETTER from GEORGE HARVEY, Esq. of Plymouth,  
F. R. SS. L. & E., M. R. Ast. S.*

MY LORD,

PLYMOUTH, 24th November 1832.

THE lamented death of Sir JOHN LESLIE renders vacant the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, and I have been requested to furnish a testimonial in favour of Mr JAMES D. FORBES.

During the past summer I had the pleasure of meeting that gentleman at the great scientific meeting held at Oxford; and his activity and zeal on that occasion very much increased the favourable opinion I had previously formed of him from his published writings. His attainments are unquestionably of a very high character; and there can be no doubt that he is destined to attain, in after life, a splendid rank in the sciences. His knowledge, moreover, is of quite a different order from that of the mere experimentalist, being grounded on sound Mathematical reasoning. His recent paper in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, affords a fine proof of his perseverance and zeal; and his development of the Magnetic Spark in the early part of the year, when no one perhaps in this country, excepting Mr FARADAY, had a clear conception of the subject, may be regarded as a high proof of his acuteness and philosophical sagacity.

I have the honour to remain,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

GEORGE HARVEY.

To the Right Hon.

The LORD PROVOST of Edinburgh.



## XVIII.

*LETTER from the Rev. ROBERT WALKER, M. A., F.R.S.,  
Mathematical Tutor of Wadham College, and Public  
Examiner of Mathematics in the University of Oxford.*

OXFORD, Nov. 27, 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I TRUST I may be allowed to add my testimony to that of others in favour of the talents of Mr J. D. FORBES, now a candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy in your University. The impression which he made on my mind, and indeed on the whole of the Committee of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at the late meeting of the British Association, was such as to induce the strongest hopes that he will prove an honour to his country, and no unfit successor to the distinguished men who have filled that Chair.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

ROB. WALKER.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.

## XIX.

*LETTER from HENRY THORNTON WITHAM, Esq.*  
*F. R. S. E., F. G. S., &c. &c.*

LARTINGTON, YORKSHIRE,

MY LORD & GENTLEMEN,

27th November 1832.

THE acquaintance of Mr JAMES D. FORBES with so many distinguished literary characters, must afford him abundant opportunities of adducing most satisfactory evidence of his capability to undertake the important duties attached to the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

Unimportant, however, as my opinion may be, in directing your judgments, I cannot resist the sincere pleasure and gratification, of offering to you my humble testimony in his favour.

Although the department in which I have laboured may not have attracted the attention of one, whose enthusiasm, in that field, would, I am confident, have thrown still further light upon so difficult a subject, yet I do feel most sincere satisfaction, in being able to certify the zeal and energy with which he has directed his powerful mind to many of the most abstruse and important branches of science. With youth, activity, and perseverance to second the exertions of a gentleman of such capabilities, I hesitate not to say, that Mr JAMES D. FORBES will, if fortunate enough to obtain this distinguished situation, shortly become an ornament to your far-famed University, the prosperity of which is ardently wished by,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your humble Servant,

HENRY THORNTON MAIRE WITHAM.

To the Right Hon. The LORD PROVOST  
 and MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.



## XX.

*LETTER from the Honourable LORD GLENLEE, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR LORD,

EDINBURGH, 3d December 1832.

It will give me the greatest pleasure to see your nephew Mr FORBES chosen Professor of Natural Philosophy in our University.

I am not in the condition of those whose own acquirements in science entitle them, as it were officially, to give a testimonial in his favour to the Patrons,—but most certainly it would be unjust on my part, and very contrary to my feelings, if I did not testify to you my sincere belief that he is admirably fitted for the station. I never knew an example of a young man of better talents for physical researches, or more enthusiastically devoted to them, or of a more ingenious and inventive mind, and withal of more unweariable industry; so that it would surprize me greatly if he did not make a most excellent Professor of Natural Philosophy.

I remain,

MY DEAR LORD,

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM MILLER.

To The Honourable  
LORD MEDWYN.

## XXI.

*TESTIMONIAL from J. C. GREGORY, Esq. M. D., one of  
the Secretaries of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, 3d December 1832.

THE highly honourable and gratifying Testimonials which Mr FORBES has received from so many gentlemen of acknowledged scientific eminence, both at home and abroad, render any expression of opinion on my part, as to his qualifications for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University, as unnecessary as I should consider it presumptuous. But I may be allowed to express my conviction, founded on an intimate acquaintance of several years' standing, and on what I have witnessed during our mutual connexion with the Royal Society (of which body Mr FORBES has been during that period one of the most active and zealous members); that Great Britain cannot at this moment produce a gentleman animated by a purer or more ardent love of science, or more enthusiastically devoted to the cultivation of Natural Philosophy, in all its branches. And I believe I may safely add, that there is no one in this country who has acquired at so early an age, a scientific reputation so widely extended, and so justly merited.

The fact of his having made himself so favourably known to the scientific world at the age of three-and-twenty, is a circumstance which ought to weigh strongly in his favour on the present occasion, as, while it holds out the fairest prospect of future eminence in the paths of science, it at the same time ensures his entering upon the duties of the Chair for which he is a candidate, at a period of life when the mental and bodily powers are in their greatest vigour and activity.

That he possesses in no ordinary degree that power of



communicating knowledge to others in a clear and impressive manner, which forms so important a qualification in a public teacher, will be readily acknowledged by all those who have witnessed, as I have done, the appearances he has made in the Royal Society, and at the meeting of the British Association at Oxford.

J. C. GREGORY, M. D.

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XXII.

*LETTER from PHILIP B. DUNCAN, Esq. M. A., Fellow of New College, Oxford, and Curator of the Ashmolean Museum.*

OXFORD, Dec. 3, 1832.

To the LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES  
of Edinburgh,

FROM all I know and all I have heard of the talents and scientific acquirements of Mr JAMES FORBES, I conceive he would fulfil the duties of the office of Professor of Natural Philosophy with great credit to himself and full satisfaction to those who elect him.

P. B. DUNCAN,  
Curator of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

## XXIII.

*LETTER from Sir THOMAS DICK LAUDER, Bart.  
F.R.S.E., F.G.S., &c.*

MY DEAR SIR,

THE GRANGE HOUSE, 4th Dec. 1832.

I HAVE this moment received your note, in which you do me the honour of requesting me to give you a certificate on the occasion of your being a candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. The only difficulty I feel is in my own incompetency to do justice to a gentleman whose high and universal scientific knowledge is so far beyond any thing I can myself pretend to, as to render it almost presumptuous in me to offer my humble opinion. But my very inferiority in this respect the better befits me for speaking to one most important point in the present inquiry, I mean that of your powers of communicating instruction; and my own experience tells me that these do very largely partake of that valuable lucidity, which, as it can alone proceed from early and continued habits of mathematical thought and reasoning, may be considered as the best proof of the existence of a truly mathematical mind. I am glad to avail myself of this opportunity to express my individual gratitude for that instruction which I have never failed to receive when listening to the papers and notices which you have read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, since I became resident here, as well as from your conversation every time I have had the good fortune to enjoy it. I have remarked with satisfaction, that ardent devotion which has induced you to abandon all other pursuits, that you may give your undivided attention to the cultivation and advancement of science; and I most sincerely hope that it may please God to spare you for many years, that you



may be raised to that high rank among philosophers which your talents and your perseverance must one day entitle you to fill.

Believe me, MY DEAR SIR,

With great regard,

Most sincerely yours,

THO<sup>s</sup>. DICK LAUDER.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq. F. R. S. L. & E.

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XXIV.

*LETTER from the Rev. DIONYSIUS LARDNER, LL. D.,  
F. R. SS. Lond. & Edin., formerly Professor of Natural  
Philosophy in the University of London.*

DEAR SIR,

REGENT STREET,  
6th December 1832.

SEEING the number and character of the Testimonials which you have already received in favour of your qualifications for the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I cannot persuade myself that mine can add any thing to their force. If you think, however, that it will carry any weight, I am happy to express my entire concurrence in the favourable opinion of your qualifications, which so many persons, much more able to form an estimate of them, have already given.

I remain, DEAR SIR,

Yours very sincerely,

DION. LARDNER.

J. D. FORBES, Esq.  
&c. &c.

## XXV.

*LETTER from RODERICK IMPEY MURCHISON, Esq.,  
F. R. S., President of the Geological Society of London.*

STANSTEAD PARK, 7<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

HOWEVER incompetent from my own qualifications to form a just estimate of those powers in the higher branches of science possessed by my friend Mr JAMES D. FORBES, and to which so many distinguished natural philosophers have borne such ample testimony, I may be permitted to state it as my opinion, that his acquirements in Geology, which have been made with the express object of connecting that science with Physics, justly entitle him to the warm commendation of every geologist.

I have had numerous opportunities of witnessing the ardent zeal of Mr FORBES in the pursuit of natural knowledge, and I am confident he would essentially serve the cause of science if placed in a Chair of the University of Edinburgh.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient Servant,

ROD. I. MURCHISON.

To the Hon. the LORD PROVOST,  
&c. &c.



## XXVI.

*LETTER from WILLIAM PROUT, Esq. M. D., F. R. S.*

SACKVILLE STREET,  
7th December 1832.

I HAVE had the pleasure of knowing Mr JAMES D. FORBES for several years past, and I must say, that I have seldom met with an individual more zealous in the pursuit of science. In addition, also, to his high acquirements, he seems to possess other qualifications eminently fitting him for the Chair for which he is a candidate.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

WM. PROUT.

To the LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES  
of Edinburgh.

## XXVII.

*LETTER from WILLIAM ARCHIBALD CADELL, Esq.  
F. R. SS. Lond. & Edin.*

EDINBURGH, 7th December 1832.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAD the opportunity of hearing the papers read by Mr J. D. FORBES at the meetings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh last winter, and was witness to the zeal and success with which he, on these occasions, explained and illustrated by experiment various questions of Natural Philosophy. I am therefore confident that Mr FORBES, by his

talents and acquired knowledge, and by the ardour with which he devotes himself to the pursuit of Science, is well fitted to fill the Chair of Natural Philosophy, now vacant, in the University of Edinburgh.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your very humble Servant,

W. A. CADELL.

To the Right Honourable

The LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES of Edinburgh.

## XXVIII.

*LETTER from WILLIAM R. HAMILTON, Esq. F.R.S., Astronomer-Royal for Ireland, and Professor of Astronomy in Trinity College, Dublin.*

DUBLIN OBSERVATORY,

7th December 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I WROTE lately to SIR DAVID BREWSTER, expressing my high sense of his scientific attainments and services. I entertain a high opinion of yours also; and cannot but think the University of Edinburgh happy in having two such candidates for a Chair so celebrated and important.

I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM R. HAMILTON.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.



## XXIX.

*LETTER from the* Rev. THOMAS MACKNIGHT, *D. D.,*  
*F. R. S. E.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 7th Dec. 1832.

YOU have done me the honour of requesting my opinion of the qualifications and scientific talents of Mr JAMES FORBES, as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.

From particular circumstances, which I need not mention, I had no intention of giving a testimony in behalf of any of the gentlemen who, I understand, are now on the field of competition for that very important office; and my recommendation can hardly add to the weight of powerful testimony which Mr FORBES has already produced from the most distinguished scientific quarters. Yet I am sensible it would be next to ingratitude and want of feeling on my part, were I to decline complying with an earnest request on this subject, addressed to me by the son of my late revered friend, Professor ROBISON, for whom I officiated during his last illness, and whose profound knowledge of Mathematical and Mechanical Science, and of all the branches of Natural Philosophy, joined with singular powers of eloquence in lecturing, rendered him undoubtedly the greatest ornament of the University in his day.

Having studied this department of science under a teacher so distinguished, and been early devoted to the acquisition of mathematical knowledge, I hope I may presume to say with confidence, that I consider Mr FORBES as *in every respect* eminently qualified for filling, with honour to himself and advantage to the University, the situation to which he aspires. His printed memoirs, and various communications

to scientific societies, many of which I have read with pleasure, are highly creditable to his ardour and zeal in the prosecution of physical inquiry ; and I certainly do not know of any one who appears to possess greater ingenuity, perseverance, and accuracy, not only in observing phenomena, but in instituting and conducting such useful experiments as give the most decided promise of future eminence in the walk of scientific discovery.

I remain, MY DEAR SIR,

With the greatest regard and esteem,

Yours faithfully,

THOS. MACKNIGHT.

JOHN ROBISON, Esq.  
Secretary of the Royal Society.

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### XXX.

*TESTIMONIAL by the Rev. E. B. RAMSAY, M. A.,  
F. R. S. E., F. A. S. S., and Minister of St John's Epis-  
copal Chapel, Edinburgh.*

11, AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH,  
8th December 1832.

AFTER the numerous and high Testimonials which scientific men of the first eminence have given as to the fitness of Mr JAMES FORBES for the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, it may appear unnecessary, and even presumptuous, to add mine. But my inducement to do so arises out of the circumstance of my relation towards him as Pastor, and that I may bear testimony to the many *moral* excellencies of his character. I have no hesitation in saying that I conceive his principles (both as



relate to morals and religion) to be such as will form in his mind the most powerful motive to a conscientious discharge of any duty which he may undertake. When to this high feeling of principle, is joined his enthusiasm in scientific pursuits, his amiable and conciliating manners, his very remarkable attainments in pure Mathematics, and his skill and diligence in conducting experiment,—I hardly think that any individual will be found with qualifications better suited to preside over the Class of Natural Philosophy.

E. B. RAMSAY.

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XXXI.

*LETTER from WILLIAM HENRY, Esq. M. D., F. R. S.*

MY LORD,

MANCHESTER, 8th Dec. 1832.

I HAVE been requested to state to your Lordship my opinion of the qualifications of Mr JAMES D. FORBES, for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, and I comply with the request, with no other hesitation than what arises from my own deficient knowledge of the higher branches of the science which it is the business of the Chair to teach.

There are, however, various topics intimately connected with the principles of Natural Philosophy, in which I take a common interest with Mr FORBES. On these he has written Essays, which give proof of extensive and sound attainments, and of very considerable capacity for observation and research. Conversation with their author has confirmed my belief that he possesses a vigorous, ardent, and inquiring mind; and that he is animated by a true love of science, and by enthusiasm and constancy in its pursuit. These are qualities which can scarcely fail to uphold the character of a

Professorship which has hitherto been filled only by men of the highest philosophical distinction.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HENRY, M. D.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
of Edinburgh.

### XXXII.

*LETTER from the Rev. WILLIAM SCORESBY, F.R.SS.*

*L. & Ed., Corresponding Member of the Institute of France.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

EXETER, 8th Dec. 1832.

UNDERSTANDING that my friend Mr J. D. FORBES is a Candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy, vacant by the lamented death of Sir JOHN LESLIE, I have much satisfaction in adding to his many more important Testimonials, my own expression of respect and esteem for Mr FORBES's character as a gentleman, and talents as a man of science, and general qualifications for the important and honourable situation to which he aspires. And besides these general qualifications for such a Chair, there is one feature of Mr FORBES's character of very peculiar fitness, and that is, his striking zeal and ardour in the pursuit and advancement of science,—a zeal which, if allowed its scope in such a distinguished field for its employment, would not fail, I conscientiously believe, to justify his appointment, by giving an impulse to that science, in accordance with his own characteristic ardour.

I have the honour to remain, with great respect,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble Servant,

WILLIAM SCORESBY.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and TOWN-COUNCIL of Edinburgh.



## XXXIII.

*LETTER from CHARLES LYELL, Esq. F. R. S. Professor of Geology in King's College, and Foreign Secretary of the Geological Society of London.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

LONDON, Dec. 8, 1832.

I AM requested to offer my testimony in favour of the qualifications of Mr JAMES D. FORBES for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy, now vacant in the University of Edinburgh. I have read the published memoirs of Mr FORBES on subjects connected with the Geology of Italy; and, since I had the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with him, have frequently conversed with him on questions relating to Geology, and have always been struck with his talent for original observation, and his ardent zeal in the pursuit of knowledge. If I ever felt any regret during my intercourse with him, it was only that his taste for the physico-mathematical sciences, which would best fit him for the duties of the Chair at which he now aims, have led him away from those studies and researches in which I have been myself more particularly engaged.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Your very obdient Servant,

CHA. LYELL.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
and MAGISTRATES, the Patrons of  
the University.

## XXXIV.

*LETTER from JOHN ABERCROMBIE, Esq. M. D., F. R. S. E.  
First Physician to His Majesty for Scotland.*

19, YORK PLACE, 10th Dec. 1832.

I FEEL that I am not entitled to give an opinion on a question affecting the interests of physical science ; but having had some opportunity of knowing the scientific character of Mr FORBES, I find it due to him to state the strong impression made upon myself of his talents, acquirements, and scientific zeal. I was particularly interested by a series of papers read before the Royal Society, on the subject of Electro-Magnetism, which, in addition to a very luminous view of the more recent observations in that branch of science, illustrated by admirably conducted experiments, included an original discovery of his own of the most curious and important kind. His appearance on these occasions conveyed to me a very strong impression of his ardour in the pursuit of knowledge, and his talent for communicating it.

JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M. D.

## XXXV.

*LETTER from JAMES WILSON, Esq. F. R. S. E.  
F. L. S. &c.*

WOODVILLE, CANAAN,

DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 11th December 1832.

I HEARD with great pleasure some time ago, and more recently from yourself, of your intention to seek the distinguished situation now vacant in our University by the death of Sir JOHN LESLIE. Though not myself conver-



sant in those departments of science which you desire to profess, I have had the best opportunities of judging of your constant devotion to the subjects of Natural Philosophy, and of the extraordinary success with which you have cultivated them. Your being selected to report on the progress and present state of Meteorological science to the recent meeting at Oxford, was a practical proof of the estimation in which you are held as an accurate observer, even by those at a distance from your ordinary place of scientific exercise, and who could not therefore be swayed by any merely personal consideration in your favour. Your zeal and activity, within our own more limited sphere, as a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, are too well known to all who pay the slightest attention to philosophical pursuits, to require mention; although perhaps many who merely witness the results of your observations and experiments, are by no means aware of the extreme labour and regularity required in their previous conduct. I have no hesitation in saying that, however high the station occupied by those who now seek, in honourable rivalry, the same object with yourself, your own entire competence as a Professor of Natural Philosophy is universally admitted.

One objection I have indeed heard stated, which is, that you are *too young* for so important a chair. I confess I cannot see the force of that objection. Where talent and the required accomplishments are, as in the present instance, combined not only with *steadiness*, in the ordinary sense of the word, but with entire devotion to the subject in view, I would rather say that the possession of youth is perhaps the most desirable attribute which could well be added to one in other respects so well qualified;—at least I know it is what many Professors would give half their genius, if they had any to spare, to be once more possessed of. At all events, it is a defect which differs from most others in this, that it is not likely either to increase or continue.

If you are appointed, I know the never-failing exertions you will make to sustain the high character of the Chair, and to make good our hopes of the benefit which will arise from a professional exercise of your attainments.

With sincere good wishes for your success, I beg to remain, very truly yours,

JAMES WILSON.

To J. D. FORBES, F. R. S. L. & E., &c.

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### XXXVI.

*LETTER from JOHN PHILLIPS, Esq. F. G. S., Secretary  
to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, &c. &c.*

GENTLEMEN,

UNDERSTANDING that JAMES DAVID FORBES, Esq. F. R. S. L. & E., &c. is a candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, I have great satisfaction in stating that I am personally acquainted with that gentleman, have had opportunities of judging of his acquirements in such branches of Natural Philosophy, and the associated Sciences, as my own researches have led me to consider, and have witnessed the manner in which, both publicly and privately, he is accustomed to communicate his knowledge. If an individual so undistinguished as myself may be permitted to offer an opinion concerning the fitness of a gentleman to fill the place of Sir JOHN LESLIE, I would, without hesitation, say, that Mr JAMES D. FORBES is such an individual, because, to his general Mathematical knowledge, he joins, I think, a determined desire to apply it to the solution of problems in Natural Philosophy, and a remarkable clear-sightedness in instituting, and perseverance in executing, the experiments which are necessary for procuring the requisite data. In my intercourse with Mr FORBES, the science of Meteorology, in particular, has afforded him



the opportunity of conveying to me a great variety of instruction; and I have perceived in him both a thorough knowledge of the performances of others, a correct perception of the desiderata to be accomplished, and exactness of contrivance for the proper execution of new experiments. I know, also, that his mind has been studiously turned to the investigation of subjects connected with the General Laws of the Universe, and that in all his labours as a Geologist, he has looked upon the monuments of the past revolutions of Nature with the eye of a philosopher accustomed to the consideration of her actual operations. It would be foreign to the object of this statement to allude to published documents, because these must be familiar to those appointed to consider the qualifications of the candidates for the Chair of LESLIE, and because the merit of these documents is too recent and too obvious. But it may be permitted me to take this unexpected opportunity of declaring, on the part of the Members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, their sense of the distinguished services rendered to them by Mr FORBES, because, from my own connexion with that Association, it is a point on which I may be thought capable of forming a correct opinion.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN PHILLIPS, F. G. S.

Assistant Secretary to the British Association,  
Secretary to the Yorkshire Phil. Society, &c.

To the LORD PROVOST and MAGISTRATES  
of Edinburgh.

## XXXVII.

*LETTER from E. W. HEAD, Esq. M. A., Fellow and Tutor  
of Merton College, Oxford.*

MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD,

MY LORD,

December 13, 1832.

WITHOUT a knowledge of the Physical Sciences which could in any degree qualify me to judge of Mr J. D. FORBES's fitness for the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy, I still venture to comply with a request made to me, that I would express my opinion to your Lordship.

I can only testify, that both here, at the Meeting of the British Association, and elsewhere, I have heard Mr FORBES's acquirements and devotion to Science praised by those who were well able to appreciate them, and that I myself had an opportunity, in the course of the last summer, of witnessing the unwearied diligence and zeal with which he pursued his scientific investigations abroad.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

E. W. HEAD.

To the Right Honourable

The LORD PROVOST, &c. &c. &c.

## XXXVIII.

*LETTER from W. H. SMYTH, Capt. R. N., F. R. S.,  
Foreign Secretary to the Royal Astronomical Society.*

CRESCENT, BEDFORD, December 16, 1832.

MY LORD PROVOST,

It were presumption in my addressing your Lordship, but that I understand, on a candidate being proposed



for the high honour of filling a Chair in the University of Edinburgh, it is not unusual for those who bear him a marked esteem, to deliver their sentiments on the occasion.

My personal acquaintance with Mr FORBES is, to my loss, of less standing than that which I have of his writings, experiments, and pursuits; but I can assert, from the experience of both, that a more arduous and talented competitor could not have offered himself. Besides the extensive attainments which have secured the respect and esteem of all who have the pleasure of knowing him, I consider the zeal and personal conduct of this gentleman to be of paramount importance; and that, by his early hopes being realized in so eligible an appointment, the scientific world will be greatly gratified.

The experiments by which Mr FORBES was the first who elicited an electric spark from a natural magnet, gave the completion to the beautiful train by which Mr FARADAY made palpable the identity of the great Occult Principle with Magnetism and Galvanism. While this has placed his name high in the scale of analytical experimenters, his inquiries on the horary oscillations of the barometer form a leading example to those who are investigating, and attempting to reduce the laws of, atmospheric phenomena.

Having very attentively examined these researches, and being also well aware, from personal knowledge, of his scientific ardour, I venture to add my humble testimony, that Mr FORBES will be found, in every way, worthy of the high honour of being elected to the Chair of Natural Philosophy in your University.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD PROVOST,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. H. SMYTH.

To the Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST, &c. &c. &c.  
Edinburgh.

## XXXIX.

*LETTER from WILLIAM WALLACE, Esq. M. A., F. R. S. E.  
Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH,  
27th Nov. 1832.

IN answer to your request, that I would give you a Testimonial in your favour, as a candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I beg to premise, what I believe you know, that there is another candidate on whose behalf I cannot but feel a deep interest. However, in a question which so nearly concerns the reputation of the University of Edinburgh, and the interests of science, I believe it to be my duty to declare my opinion, leaving out of consideration, as well as I can, all regard to the consequences.

Forming my estimate of the qualifications required, by those of the illustrious men who have given dignity to the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I must regard an extensive acquaintance with doctrines of pure Mathematics as most essential; and in addition, a still more extensive acquaintance with Physical Science. The necessity of the former in the study of Natural Philosophy leads me to believe that you have given due attention to it; and I know that you regard the mathematical sciences as most essential in the study of Physics.

I can speak with confidence as to your decided taste for physical inquiries, and your industry in the study of what is known, as well as in its extension and improvement; and I know well that your zeal in the study of Nature is great and commendable, and that it is likely to lead to most important results.

I have much pleasure in saying, that, in an intercourse of two years, I have had much satisfaction in the enjoyment of



your friendship, and I believe that the suavity of your disposition, and your sympathy with all your fellow-labourers in the field of science, and kindly feeling towards them, is likely, in the event of your obtaining the Chair, to conduce to your usefulness as a teacher, and to make you an agreeable associate, and in every way an ornament to our University.

Believe me, my dear Sir, with much esteem and regard,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM WALLACE.

TO JAMES D. FORBES, ESQ.

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XL.

*LETTER from Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON, Baronet,  
F.R.S.E., Professor of History in the University of  
Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 28th Nov. 1832.

I HAVE read the testimonials you sent me with the greatest pleasure; from the characters of their authors, and the articulate nature of their statements, they form a body of evidence very different in weight from the usual value of such documents; and nothing, certainly, could be more gratifying to his friends, than the extent to which they prove your nephew's remarkable attainments in science. But however flattering, they are precisely what I was prepared to expect them to be; for, though not entitled to express an opinion of Mr FORBES's qualifications from my own acquaintance with physical pursuits, I know enough of his abilities to be assured of his success in any department of inquiry to which he might devote himself; and I can, without partiality, aver, that I have never known a devotion to science more ardent and more disinterested than his.

It was, therefore, with no surprise that I found he was acknowledged, by the most competent judges, to have already accomplished what would suffice to prove his qualifications for the appointment he wishes, were he twice his age.

Believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very truly yours,

W. HAMILTON.

GEORGE FORBES, Esq.

## XLI.

*LETTER from JAMES PILLANS, Esq. F. R. S. E., Professor of Humanity in the University of Edinburgh.*

COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH,  
29th November 1832.

MY DEAR SIR,

I CAN have no feeling but that of satisfaction in complying with the request you make, coming, as it does, from an old pupil, who gained one of the annual prizes in my own class; and I willingly embrace the opportunity of expressing the great pleasure I received from listening to the luminous exposition, well composed and well delivered, of the progress of Meteorological Science, which you read in the Theatre at Oxford last June; and from hearing the discourse afterwards spoken of in terms of high approbation by persons whom I regarded as very competent judges.

I have the honour to be,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very faithfully,

JAMES PILLANS.

J. D. FORBES, Esq.



## XLII.

*LETTER from JAMES RUSSELL, Esq. Vice-President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 1st Dec. 1832.

As I never enjoyed the pleasure of conversing with you on Philosophical subjects, I must confine my testimonial to the impression made by your papers read at the Royal Society, and the experiments exhibited in illustration of them.

The papers are evidently the production of one endowed with superior talents for observing and investigating the phenomena of nature, and likewise possessed of capacity to contrive experiments suited to establish the points on which the truth or falsehood of any opinion depends. You were animated with a high degree of enthusiasm for science, which was displayed in the patience, industry, and zeal with which you prosecuted your Philosophical pursuits, and you performed your experiments with much neatness and precision. I therefore regard you as a person likely to attain an eminent place in the scientific world.

I have the honour to remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Ever yours,

JAMES RUSSELL.

To JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.

## XLIII.

*LETTER from W. P. ALISON, Esq. M. D., F. R. S. E.,  
Professor of the Theory of Physic in the University of  
Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

HERIOT ROW, 1st Dec. 1832.

I HAVE had so little leisure, of late years, to attend to the progress of those branches of science which you have cultivated with such success, that it would be presumptuous in me to express to the Patrons of the University an opinion as to your proficiency in them. But every one who is acquainted with you, is aware both of your zealous devotion to scientific pursuits, and of your experience and accuracy in observation and experiment; and I am happy to think, that your extensive acquaintance with men of eminence in science, will enable you to lay before the Patrons satisfactory evidence, not only as to these points, but also as to your knowledge of the higher branches of Mathematics, and of their application to Natural Philosophy, by which that science has acquired a pre-eminence, both as to extent and precision, over all other departments of human knowledge.

If you shall be able, as I trust you may, to satisfy the Patrons as to these essential qualifications, I am sure that the only objection which I have heard stated to your claims, namely, your youth, ought not to weigh with them against you. For it seems to me to be certain, that the habit of communicating knowledge clearly and efficiently, is acquired much more easily early in life than afterwards; and in this University, at least, almost all those who have ultimately distinguished themselves the most, have undertaken the duty of teaching at an early period of life: many of them consider-



ably sooner than you will do, if you are successful on the present occasion.

I am,

DEAR SIR,

With much esteem,

Yours very faithfully,

W. P. ALISON.

#### XLIV.

*LETTER from ROBERT CHRISTISON, Esq. M. D.,  
F. R. S. E., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY LORD,

EDINBURGH, 3d Dec. 1832.

Mr JAMES FORBES has done me the honour of requesting me to express to your Lordship and the Council my opinion of his qualifications as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. I presume therefore, to address your Lordship on the subject, since I have had some opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with his talents and acquirements, and ample means of knowing the estimation in which he is held by many who are better qualified to judge than I can pretend to be.

Having perused his printed communications, heard various papers read before the Royal Society, and also occasionally assisted him in his investigations on several departments of Natural Philosophy, I feel well assured that I know of no man, even among those by many years his seniors, so extensively and deeply versed in the various branches of that science,—so ardently devoted to its cultivation,—or who has already done more to improve it, and holds forth such decided promise of future distinction.

I understand that Mr FORBES's youth has been objected to by some. But *they* must be very little acquainted with the history of our University, who are not aware that this circumstance may be much the reverse of an objection to him as a candidate. For a large proportion of its greatest ornaments were nominated Professors while quite as young, or even younger. The first MONRO was Professor of Anatomy at the age of twenty-one, the second MONRO at the age of twenty-three; MACLAURIN was Professor of Mathematics at nineteen, DUGALD STEWART at twenty-two; the late Dr GREGORY was Professor of the Theory of Medicine also at twenty-two; and it is almost unnecessary to add, that these are the very first names among the many who have contributed to raise the University to its present eminence. That want of years is the reverse of an objection in Mr FORBES's instance, I am confident from knowing, that his scientific associates are of the first rank in science, and of twice his standing in point of age; that he has gained their esteem in all parts of Britain; and that he is every where known as a successful author in Natural Philosophy, and one of the most rising cultivators of the Physical Sciences in this country.

It ought to be the desire, and is the interest, of every Professor in the University, to see its vacant Chairs filled to the greatest possible advantage. Influenced by these feelings, I earnestly wish Mr FORBES success in the present competition; for I consider him already in every respect qualified to fill the Chair of Natural Philosophy, with the important advantage of having before him the probability of a long life to raise himself and the Chair to a high rank in scientific celebrity.

I have the honour to be,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,

R. CHRISTISON.

The Right Hon. the LORD PROVOST  
of Edinburgh.



## XLV.

*LETTER from JOHN WILSON, Esq. M. A., F. R. S. E.,  
Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

8, GLOUCESTER PLACE, 4th Dec. 1832.

HAVING become intimately acquainted with your brother, Mr JAMES FORBES, while he was a student in the Moral Philosophy Class, and having ever since that time enjoyed his friendship, I am anxious, on the present occasion, to express, in a few words, my opinion of his extraordinary talents and attainments.

He was, in my class, the most distinguished student of his year, and gained the highest honours. The Gold Medal was adjudged to him, in competition with many formidable rivals, for many Essays on Moral, Metaphysical, and also Physical subjects, displaying great powers of thought and of composition. His perseverance in the prosecution of his studies was invincible; and, during the two succeeding sessions, he gained an equally splendid reputation in the Natural Philosophy Class, and there carried off each year the first Prize.

Since he left the University, it is well known that he has devoted himself with a noble ambition to the study of Physical Science. It is not for me to say with what eminent success; for testimony, no doubt, will be borne to his conspicuous merits by men themselves illustrious in the scientific world. I may, however, be permitted to say, that I have often heard Sir JOHN LESLIE speak with the highest praise of his genius and its application; and predict that in good time his favourite pupil would gain a great name.

I cannot conclude without adding, that of all the men with whom I have formed friendship in after life, from their having been students in my class, not one has been more en-

deared to me, by his amiable and engaging manners, and by his noble moral qualities, than Mr FORBES.

I am,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN WILSON.

TO SIR JOHN FORBES.

# XLVI.

*LETTER from the Rev. ALEXANDER BRUNTON, D. D.,  
F. R. S. E., Professor of Oriental Languages in the Uni-  
versity of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH COLLEGE, 6th December 1832.

I HAVE read, with great interest and pleasure, the Certificates, of which you favoured me with a copy, on behalf of Mr JAMES D. FORBES, as a Candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy. Very strong as their language is, it is not more so than I was prepared to expect, by what I have long known of his devotedness to science. Habits of research, so early matured, hold out the noblest promise of farther eminence, aided as they are by all the ardour and all the energy of youth.

Those of his appearances which I have witnessed in the Royal Society, convince me that Mr FORBES's manner of communicating information in a public class would be at once impressive and conciliatory.

I have the honour to be,

Respectfully and faithfully,

Yours,

ALEX. BRUNTON.

GEORGE FORBES, Esq.



## XLVII.

*LETTER from ROBERT GRAHAM, Esq. M.D., F.R.S.E.,  
Professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh.*

DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 6th December 1832.

SINCE you think a note from me may be of service to you as a Candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy, though most certainly I do not think so, I most readily comply with your wish.

Though of my own knowledge I really feel myself in no degree entitled to offer an opinion which can have any weight, yet I can most truly state, that the impression is most favourable which has been made upon me by your appearance in the Royal Society—by such of your papers as I have read—by my knowledge of your unwearied perseverance in conducting very long and very accurate observations—of your unbounded zeal and devotion to the pursuit of Natural Science—and of the opinion which has for a considerable time been entertained of your merits by scientific men generally.

It is unnecessary for me to add, that your manner in public and in private will qualify you, if successful in your application, for the discharge of the duties of the Class Room, and must render you to every Member of the Senatus Academicus a very agreeable associate.

Believe me,

DEAR SIR,

Yours very truly,

ROBT. GRAHAM.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.

## XLVIII.

*LETTER from ROBERT JAMESON, Esq. F. R. SS. L. & Ed.  
Hon. M. R. I. A. &c. Professor of Natural History in  
the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE for several years had the pleasure of your acquaintance, and know, indeed intimately, the course of your scientific pursuits. They are such as invariably marked out those of my pupils who, after leaving the University, have greatly distinguished themselves in various departments of natural knowledge. Enthusiasm in the cause of science,—unconquerable zeal,—incessant activity,—and great acuteness and accuracy in observation, have eminently characterized you ever since we first met; and I truly believe, that no ordinary circumstance or circumstances in after life will ever damp the ardour of your nature. I, on the contrary, look forward to the time when you will take a prominent place among the illustrious men who have sustained the high intellectual character of Scotland. Already, indeed, you have done much more than others who bear a higher name. A very important branch of Natural Philosophy,—one of the departments indeed in which my late illustrious and ever to be lamented friend LESLIE so much distinguished himself, by the brilliancy of his discoveries and the elegance of his views, has been with you a subject of particular study; and the memoirs you have published on Meteorology, have been received by the scientific world in a manner worthy their numerous excellencies. But what speaks more in your favour than any thing I can say, is the fact of your having carried the gold medals at the Natural Philosophy Class; and that Sir JOHN LESLIE had it arranged, in the year 1830, that you were to teach the Natural



Philosophy Class in the University during his absence abroad, which would have extended to a period of one or two years.

Should the Patrons of the University raise you to the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I feel convinced that you will speedily create for yourself a name worthy that high station.

I have the honour to remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Your ever faithful and sincere,

ROBERT JAMESON.

EDINBURGH COLLEGE MUSEUM,  
December 10, 1832.

TO JAMES FORBES, Esq. F.R. S. &c. &c.

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## XLIX.

*LETTER from* GEORGE JOSEPH BELL, Esq. *F. R. S. E.,*  
*Professor of Scotch Law in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

68, QUEEN STREET, 10th Dec. 1832.

I REJOICE in the opportunity which your note affords me of adding my testimony (however undeserving of weight in those branches of science which you have so successfully cultivated) to the high approbation which so many eminent persons have bestowed on your labours.

I cannot avoid recalling on this occasion the disappointment which I met with in the course of our first acquaintance. I had been much pleased with the talent, judgment, and correctness which, in the examination of students in law, you had uniformly shown; and I did feel regret when you came to inform me, that you were no longer to devote your-

self to my favourite study, but that you meant to give yourself up entirely to philosophical pursuits. I felt regret, because I had conceived high hopes of your future eminence in jurisprudence.

I have since that time marked your progress with great interest, and the enthusiasm with which you have followed the studies to which you had devoted yourself. From many of my friends, well able and entitled to appreciate your merits, I have heard repeated and strong confirmations of all that I should myself have anticipated—the highest testimonies to your successful pursuit of physical science, and great applause of your judgment, skill, and ingenuity in experimental inquiry, and of your power of communicating clearly the result of your investigations.

I will confess to you that, at one time, I had hoped to see Sir JOHN HERSCHEL in LESLIE'S Chair. On his avocations proving such as to make that hopeless, my thoughts and wishes turned to you: but I had no title from character or proficiency in that branch of science to obtrude my opinion, and scarcely feel justified, even by your note, in doing so now.

All I can say is, that, with anxious thoughts for the honour and success of the University, I can see nothing so likely to promote those objects as the enthusiastic exertions of one who, with the vigour and capabilities of youth, and with many years before him for continued exertion in his favourite pursuit, has already so greatly distinguished himself in all the qualities most fitted to lead to eminence.

With the warmest wishes for your success, I am,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE JOS. BELL.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.



L.

*LETTER from JAMES HOME, Esq. M. D., F. R. S. E.  
Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of  
Edinburgh.*

DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 11th Dec. 1832.

I HAVE read with great pleasure the certificates in favour of your friend Mr J. FORBES, at present candidate for the Professorship of Natural Philosophy, which you left with me, and the others which you have since sent. These certificates are so ample, so numerous, and given by such eminent men, who are very competent judges of the qualifications necessary to teach this branch of science, that I have no doubt they will have very great influence with the Patrons of the University, who are always most anxious to fulfil this part of their duty. My studies have been so different from those of Mr FORBES, that I feel myself altogether inadequate to give any opinion respecting the merits of Mr FORBES for teaching this department. Should, however, Mr FORBES be the fortunate candidate, I shall, from my knowledge of his amiable disposition, and gentleman-like manners, greet him with great pleasure as a colleague, who will do honour to the University.

I am,

DEAR SIR,

Yours sincerely, &c.

J. HOME.

DAVID MILNE, Esq.

## LI.

*LETTER from DOUGLAS CHEAPE, Esq. Professor of  
Civil Law in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 15th December 1832.

As I understand that your brother's friends are desirous to ascertain the sense of the Members of our University, with respect to his claims as a Candidate for the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I have great pleasure in stating that, when I heard of the death of my lamented friend Sir JOHN LESLIE, the moment that the subject of his successor occurred to my mind, my thoughts turned to your brother as eminently fitted for that important station. My opinion on this subject is, of course, not founded on my own knowledge of your brother's scientific talents and acquirements, which are very far above my power of appreciation, but on the unanimous and decided testimony of all the men of science whom I have happened to meet with; and especially of Sir JOHN LESLIE, who has often expressed to me his conviction, that your brother's would speedily become one of our most distinguished scientific names, and his wish that the public should have the advantage of his eminent talents, in some such situation as that to which he now aspires. It may, perhaps, be proper to add, that so little did his youth seem to Sir JOHN LESLIE to form any objection, (in my own very humble opinion it is a high recommendation,) to him as a Candidate for an Academical Chair, that, some years ago, when he meditated an excursion to the East, he mentioned to me his intention to apply to him to teach the Natural Philosophy Class during his absence.

With every wish for your brother's success, I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Yours most faithfully,

D. CHEAPE.

Sir JOHN FORBES, Bart.



## LII.

*LETTER* from ALEXANDER MONRO, Esq. M.D., F.R.S.E.  
*Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of  
 Edinburgh.*

MY LORD,

GREAT STUART STREET, Dec. 20, 1832.

DEEPLY impressed with a sense of the excellent talents and enthusiasm of Mr FORBES, (at whose request I have written this letter), in the cultivation of the physical sciences, &c. I have taken the liberty of recommending him to your Lordship and the Council, as highly qualified to fill the vacant Chair of Natural Philosophy; in which opinion I am borne out by judges much more competent than myself to appreciate his merits, as well as by his other printed Testimonials.

I concur also in opinion with my colleagues, that Mr FORBES'S youth is not a well founded objection to his election; and considering his ardour in the study of the physical sciences, which he has cultivated with so much success, there is reason to expect that he will continue to pursue the same course, which cannot fail to lead to further acquirement and eminence in scientific discovery.

I have the honour to be,

Your LORDSHIP'S

Most devoted Servant,

ALEXANDER MONRO.

The Right Hon.

The LORD PROVOST.

## LIII.

*LETTER from THOMAS STEWART TRAILL, Esq. M. D.,  
F. R. S. E. Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the  
University of Edinburgh.*

DEAR SIR,

LIVERPOOL, January 1833.

IT would be presumptuous in me to decide on the qualifications requisite to fill the Chair successively occupied by ROBISON, PLAYFAIR, and my highly valued friend, Sir JOHN LESLIE: but I can have no hesitation in stating that, although our acquaintance is of a recent date, I have long entertained a very high opinion of the extent and variety of your attainments, from the value of your published dissertations on different branches of physical science, particularly on some of the most difficult points of Meteorology, the Laws of Heat and Moisture, Magnetism, and Geology.

I am happy to find this estimate of your merits confirmed by the reports I have received of your communications to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the British Scientific Association, and by the very favourable estimate of your labours and mathematical acquirements, expressed by some of the most competent judges in Great Britain.

I am, DEAR SIR,

With much respect,

Yours very faithfully,

THOS. STEWART TRAILL.

JAMES DAVID FORBES, Esq.



## LIV.

*Copy of a LETTER from the Rev. THOMAS CHALMERS,  
D.D. Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, *January 21st 1833.*

I HAVE not seen the attacks on your nephew, to which you adverted in our conversation of this day, but never I am sure could they have been diverted to an object more undeserving of them.

So long as there was an active competition for the Chair of Natural Philosophy, I declined taking part with any of the candidates; but now that I understand the competition to be well nigh terminated, I may state, without reserve, the very high hopes which I entertain from the union of his uncommon powers with his unconquerable perseverance and ardour in the prosecution of Science. From the outset I have held our University to have been singularly fortunate in the appearance of three such candidates as Sir DAVID BREWSTER, Mr GALLOWAY, and your nephew—and whatever difficulty I may have felt in pronouncing on the question of his relative pretensions,—on the question of his absolute pretensions I cannot hesitate to state it as my opinion, that his appointment will do honour to the Patrons, and be of signal benefit to the College.

I ever am, MY DEAR SIR,

Yours with great esteem and regard,

THOMAS CHALMERS.

TO GEORGE FORBES Esq.

## LV.

*LETTER from M. AUGUSTE DE LA RIVE, Corresponding Member of the Institute of France, and Professor of Experimental Philosophy in the Academy of Geneva.*

MONSIEUR ET CHER AMI,

QUAND il y a peu de jours, je cherchois à vous persuader qu'il falloit absolument que vous fussiez une fois Professeur de Physique à l'Université d'Edimbourg, je ne me doutais guère que la place à laquelle je vous engageais à aspirer deviendrait si promptement vacante. La perte que votre ville vient de faire dans la personne du Professeur LESLIE sera vivement sentie par l'Europe savante qui avoit admiré les découvertes de ce célèbre physicien ; on regrettoit seulement depuis quelques années que l'âge ou plutôt les infirmités eussent arrêté ses travaux et paralysé son genie. Ce seroit une noble ambition pour un homme jeune et actif que de rendre à la belle place qu'occupoit LESLIE tout le lustre dont elle a joui pendant tant d'années à Edimbourg. Cette ambition vous devez l'avoir, cher ami : vous avez tout ce qui est nécessaire pour reussir et pour courir de la manière la plus honorable cette brillante carrière. Les momens agreables que j'ai passés avec vous, m'ont fourni l'occasion d'apprécier les connoissances nombreuses et approfondies que vous possédez et l'activité infatigable avec laquelle vous cherchez à les utiliser et à les étendre. Les observations interessantes de differens genres dont vous avez enrichi la physique et la météorologie, dans les courses que vous avez faites dans nos montagnes, les travaux originaux sur la chaleur et l'electromagnetisme que vous avez enterpris et publiés en partie, sont des titres honorables que vous pourrez faire valoir avec une juste assurance, en même temps qu'ils sont les garants et les preuves de ce que vous ferez plus tard. Mais ce gout de recherches originales, cette perseverance qui vous fait reussir dans celles



que vous entreprenez, ne sont pas vos seuls mérites ; il est pour la place dont il s'agit une autre qualité non moins précieuse, peut-être même plus importante, et vous m'avez paru la posséder à un haut degré, je veux parler de cette clarté d'idées, de cette précision d'expression, de cette vigueur dans les applications que vous apportiez dans les conversations que nous avions ensemble sur les sujets scientifiques. J'en ai été d'autant plus frappé, que cette qualité est très rare à rencontrer chez les personnes qui n'ont pas étudié dans l'école Française, car nous ne pouvons pas nous le dissimuler, les Français sont nos maîtres sous ce rapport, et c'est ce qui leur donne la supériorité qu'on leur reconnaît dans l'enseignement des sciences physiques et mathématiques. Vous êtes une preuve, à ajouter à beaucoup d'autres, que les écoles Anglaises et Ecossaises peuvent maintenant rivaliser sous ce rapport avec l'école Française. Les études approfondies que vous avez faites en mathématiques, sont, j'en suis persuadé, l'une des principales causes de la méthode excellente que vous apportez dans l'étude des sciences physiques ; en même temps qu'elles doivent déjà, et devront toujours plus, vous la faciliter. Avec la direction actuelle qu'a prise la physique et le développement qu'on a donné aux théories, la connaissance des calculs supérieurs devient tous les jours plus nécessaires, je dirai même indispensable, à celui qui désire contribuer aux progrès de cette science. Vous êtes heureux de vous être muni de bonne heure de cet utile auxiliaire ; je ne doute pas que vous n'en sentiez déjà tout le prix.

Ainsi, cher ami, sous tous les rapports vous me paraissez être dans ce moment l'homme le plus propre à remplir la place devenue vacante par la mort de LESLIE ; je vous assure que je vous parle en toute conscience, et que l'amitié que j'ai conçue pour vous, n'entre pour rien dans ma conviction. Quand je songe que vous êtes placé de manière à pouvoir vous vouer entièrement et exclusivement aux sciences, que vous apporteriez dans les fonctions de professeur, cette activité, cette vie de la jeunesse, ce zèle et cet ardeur que l'on met

dans les premières années d'une carrière, et que l'on rencontre difficilement chez ceux qui la poursuivent depuis longtemps, je ne puis m'empêcher d'avoir l'opinion la plus favorable du lustre que retrouveroit la place de Professor de Physique dans l'Université d'Edimbourg si elle vous soit confiée, et je suis bien persuadé que vous devez avoir de très bonnes chances de l'obtenir, puisque les juges éclairés qui sont chargés de la conférer sont les plus intéressés à la remettre entre des mains capables de la faire fleurir et de lui continuer la reputation dont elle à joui jusqu'à present.

Agréez, Monsieur et cher ami, avec l'expression de tous les voeux que je forme en votre faveur, l'assurance des sentimens d'affection et d'estime que vous à voués,

Votre devoué ami,

AUG<sup>E</sup>. DE LA RIVE,

*Profr. de Physique à l'Academie de Geneve ;  
et Membre Correspondant de l'Académie  
des Sciences de Paris.*

Genève, le 16 Novembre 1832.

Monsieur JAMES D. FORBES.

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## LVI.

*LETTER from M. GAUTIER, Director of the Observatory,  
and Professor of Astronomy in the Academy of Geneva.*

MON CHER MONSIEUR,

GENEVE, 19 Novembre 1832.

Nous vous avons bien regretté jeudi dernier à la reunion de notre Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle ; et les communications qui y ont été faites en votre nom, y ont excité un grand intérêt. M. NECKER nous a lu le mémoire que vous avez écrit en Français, sur le phénomène d'optique que vous avez observé au Rigi ; et le mémoire a



donné lieu à une discussion intéressante et honorable pour vous. J'ai cherché ensuite à rendre compte de la notice, écrite aussi en Français, que vous avez bien voulu me confier, et que doit paraître dans le prochain cahier de la *Bibliothèque Universelle*, sur la détermination astronomique que vous avez obtenue de la position géographique du Prieure de Chamouny et de l'Hospice du Grand St Bernard, par vos propres observations. Je n'ai pas connoissance d'aucun travail de ce genre sur ces deux points intéressans ; et ce n'est pas le premier service scientifique dont les Alpes auront l'obligation à des savans et à des instrumens de la Grande Bretagne. J'ai dit aussi quelques mots dans cette séance sur les resultats de vos nombreuses déterminations d'intensité et d'inclinaison magnétique dans les montagnes et les vallées de la Suisse et de la Savoie, en indiquant ce que la comparaison des intensités à diverses hauteurs avait de particulièrement intéressant pour confirmer les resultats obtenus par M. QUETELET, et pour infirmer ceux de M. KUPFFER, ou du moins pour faire voir que ce dernier a tiré trop promptement une conclusion générale d'une observation particulière.

J'apprens avec un bien vif intérêt que vous serez probablement mis en présentation pour remplacer dans l'Université d'Edimbourg, l'illustre Professeur de Physique qu'elle vient de perdre ; et je mets un grand prix à ce que vous obteniez cette honorable place. Ce n'est pas seulement pour vous que je la desire, comme un des plus flatteuses à laquelle un savant puisse aspirer : mais c'est aussi pour l'Université elle-même, au lustre de laquelle je prens un grand intérêt. Je vois par tout ce que vous avez fait pendant votre court voyage dans notre pays, ainsi que par vos travaux précédens, ce que l'on peut attendre de votre sagacité et de votre zèle dans une position aussi favorable et aussi éminente. Les connoissances si variées que vous possédez, votre position independante, votre jeunesse, et toutes les qualités qui vous distinguent, me semblent vous rendre particulièrement propre à bien remplir un poste aussi intéressant ; et je ne

puis que faire les vœux les plus sincères pour que vous réussissiez dans l'objet actuel de vos desirs. Comme Astronome, je dois encore le souhaiter tout particulièrement, puisque les connoissances que vous avez dans cette partie, aussi bien que dans la Meteorologie, et le vif intérêt que vous mettez à leurs progrès, me font espérer que vous exercerez une heureuse influence sur leur developpement dans une cité qui me semble aussi eminemment bien placée qu'Edimbourg pour rendre de grands services à la science dans ces parties, et pour tirer tout le parti possible de ce qu'elle possède déjà en ce genre.

Adieu, mon cher Monsieur ; agreez tous mes vœux pour tout ce qui vous touche, et recevez l'expression de ma haute estime et de ma sincere amitié.

ALFRED GAUTIER,

*Docteur-es-Sciences de l'Academie de Paris ;  
Prof. d'Astronomie dans l'Academie de  
Geneve ; et Directeur de l'Observatoire.*

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.

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LVII.

*EXTRACT of a Letter from M. NECKER DE SAUSSURE,  
Foreign Member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and  
of the Geological Society ; Honorary Professor of Mine-  
ralogy and Geology in the Academy of Geneva.*

—JE voudrois bien que ce fut une chaire de Minéralogie ou de Geologie que vous recherchiez, car (comme Geologue) j'aurois eu un bien vrai plaisir à vous donner aussi un certificat. J'y aurois fait valoir votre excellent esprit d'observation, votre activité, votre constante occupation des objets de vos recherches, l'amour pur de la verité qui vous fait ne pas admettre légèrement des faits encore peu avérés, qui vous en-



gage à revoir ce que vous avez déjà vu, à refaire malgré des obstacles, des expériences dont bien d'autres que vous se contenteroient, et surtout qui vous permet d'entendre, de juger, de discuter les objections, et qui vous fait abandonner sans hésitation une hypothèse ou une explication fût-elle même de votre propre création, pour peu que de nouveaux faits viennent à la contredire. Ces qualités, si précieuses et si essentielles à l'observateur de la Nature, je les ai reconnues éminemment en vous, soit dans nos fréquentes conversations, soit surtout dans nos excursions géologiques autour d'Edimbourg, et bien plus encore dans la course bien plus longue que j'ai eu le bonheur de faire avec vous dans nos Alpes. J'y ferois aussi remarquer vos connaissances en Minéralogie et dans des portions importantes de la Géologie, celles des terrains ignés, et la sagesse de vos vues à cet égard déjà manifestée bien jeune par vos excellentes descriptions des terrains volcaniques de Naples, et par la manière dont vous avez exploré bien des parties de l'Ecosse. Vos profondes connoissances en mathématiques, et surtout la facilité bien rare avec laquelle vous êtes toujours prêt à les appliquer au besoin, pourront et devront nécessairement vous faire ouvrir de nouvelles voies dans les parties de la géologie qui tiennent à la dynamique et à la mécanique céleste, et sur lesquelles vous avez déjà dirigé votre attention.

Mais il est une considération que je voudrois pouvoir faire valoir auprès de ceux qui seront appelés à pourvoir à la chaire vacante par la mort de Sir JOHN LESLIE, c'est l'intérêt qu'il y auroit à ce que deux villes qui, comme Edimbourg et Genève, ont tant de rapports dans tous les genres, qui sont si anciennement unies par tant de liens importants, resserrassent toujours plus ces liens, par des rapprochemens toujours plus intimes entre leurs Académies. Or, rien à cet égard ne serait plus propre à opérer un tel rapprochement que de voir porter à une chaire déjà illustrée à Edimbourg, par tant de savans du premier ordre, un savant qui est estimé, aimé et considéré par tous ceux à Genève qui sont à

même de l'apprecier. Et je ne suis pas le seul qui pense ainsi, quoique à demi-Ecossais comme vous le savez bien, mais nous avons ici à Genève une quantité de savans, d'hommes de lettres, de medecins, qui ont étudié à Edimbourg, et qui verroient avec bien de l'intérêt parvenir à une des Chaires de l'Université leur *Alma Mater*, un homme qui ses talens, ses qualités, sa position dans le monde, ont fait aimer, considerer et honorer dans leur propre patrie. Voila, mon cher ami, des sentimens mal exprimés mais bien sentis.

Votre devoué ami,

L. A. NECKER.

GENEVE, 19 Novembre 1832.

JAMES D. FORBES, Esq.

# LVIII.

*LETTER from M. le BARON MAURICE, Member of the Institute of France, and Professor of Analytical Mechanics in the Academy of Geneva.*

MONSIEUR,

GENEVE, le 20 Novembre 1832.

PUISQUE vous avez renoncé à vôtre voyage en Italie pour cet hiver, permettez moi de vous exprimer avec sincérité le vœu que je forme pour que vous vous présentiez comme candidat à la chaire que laisse vacante la mort de M. LESLIE. Quels qu'aient été titres de ce célèbre physicien à une illustration durable, je me persuade que vous le remplaceriez bien avantageusement par la clarté et la méthode de votre enseignement, comme aussi par la connoissance que vous avez de l'analyse moderne. C'est sur cette science qu'il faut s'appuyer aujourd'hui pour faire avancer la véritable physique, cette physique *mathématique* fondée par NEWTON, et qui a dû tant de progrès à LA PLACE et à FOURIER,— pour ne parler ici que des hommes qui ne vivent plus. Dans les occasions où j'ai eu l'honneur de vous voir, j'ai été frappé



de la précision méthodique de votre conversation comme du caractère tout-à-fait mathématique de vos connoissances, et je suis persuadé que vos auditeurs suivroient avec facilité pleine d'entraînement, l'exposition vraiment analytique que vous sauriez leur faire de l'état actuel de la Philosophie Naturelle. L'intérêt que je me permets de porter à l'illustre Université de votre capitale (où plusieurs de mes amis ont eu l'avantage d'étudier,) est le motif qui m'engage, Monsieur, à vous presser de lui offrir votre concours; et j'aurois un vrai plaisir, si je puis me rendre au mois de Juin à la savante réunion de Cambridge, à vous y féliciter du succès de votre présentation.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur, avec l'expression de tous mes vœux pour vous, celle de ma considération la plus distinguée.

LE BON. MAURICE,

*De l'Institut Royal de France, Professeur de  
Mécanique Analytique dans l'Académie  
de Genève.*

Monsieur JAMES D. FORBES,  
à Greenhill par Edimbourg.

## LIX.

*LETTER from M. QUETELET, Director of the Observatory  
at Brussels, Honorary Member of the Royal Astronomical  
Society of London, of the Royal Academy of Sciences of  
Turin, &c. &c.*

MON CHER MONSIEUR,

BRUXELLES, le 21 Novembre 1832.

JE viens d'apprendre avec peine la nouvelle perte que les sciences ont faite par la mort de M. LESLIE. Cette année est fatal aux lumières, et particulièrement à l'Ecosse, qui vient de perdre encore son célèbre romancier. Je re-

grette qu'une cause aussi pénible, suspende le cours de vos recherches scientifiques en Suisse et en Italie. J'espère d'une autre part que les sciences physiques y gagneront, si vous obtenez à votre retour dans votre patrie, la Chaire que votre illustre compatriote a laissée vacante. Jeune, actif, et doué de connaissances étendues comme vous l'êtes, vous pourrez rendre de grands services aux sciences d'observation. Ce genre de recherches dont vous vous occupez avec tant de succès, pourra vous présenter des applications nombreuses dans vos poétiques montagnes de l'Ecosse, dont je garderai toujours le plus agréable souvenir. Vous pourrez y répéter les expériences que vous venez de faire en Suisse ; et si, comme j'ose l'espérer, vous obtenez la chaire que vous désirez, vous pourrez joindre l'exemple au précepte, ce qui m'a toujours paru indispensable dans un professeur.

Je vous serai très obligé, Monsieur, de vouloir bien me tenir au courant du succès qu'obtiendront vos démarches, auxquelles je prends un vif intérêt. Il me serait très agréable de pouvoir continuer à correspondre avec vous, et à combiner par la suite nos observations météorologiques, si vous vous trouvez à même de continuer cette partie des sciences d'observation. Je vous prierai de vouloir bien me communiquer vos observations aussitôt que vous les aurez coordonnées.

Recevez, je vous prie, mon cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentimens très dévoués et très affectionnés.

Tout à vous,

A. QUETELET.

A Monsieur

M. JACQUES D. FORBES.



*LIST of Printed Memoirs, and of Communications to  
Scientific Societies, by Mr FORBES.*

1826. An Attempt to account for the fact that the Stars appear greater in number when viewed cursorily, than when examined with attention. *Edinburgh Journal of Science*, No. X.

On the Severe Cold of the Winter 1825-6, and of the Heat in June 1826. *Ibid.*

1827. Remarks on Mount Vesuvius. *Id.* No. XIII.  
Remarks on the Climate of Naples and its vicinity. *Id.* No. XIV.

1828. Memoir on the Horary Oscillations of the Barometer at Rome. In two Parts. *Id.* Nos. XV. and XVI.

Thermometrical Observations made during the Eclipse of the Sun 1826. *Id.* XV.

On the Hygrometric Theory of the Cold Caves of Monte Testaccio at Rome. *Id.* XVI.

Observations on the Styles of Building employed in Ancient Italy, and the Materials used in the City of Rome. *Id.* XVII.

Account of some Meteorological Observations made during the years 1826-7. *Id.* XVII.

Notices of Observations upon Solar and Terrestrial Radiation. *Id.* XVII.

Physical Notices of the Bay of Naples, published in eight numbers of the Edinburgh Journal of Science, from No. XVIII. to No. VI. *New Series.*

1. On Mount Vesuvius.
2. On the Buried Cities of Herculaneum, Pompeii, and Stabiae.
3. On Pausilipo and the Lake Agnano.
4. On the Solfatara.
5. On the Phenomena of the Temple of Jupiter Serapis at Pozzuoli.
6. On the District of the Bay of Baja.
7. On the Islands of Procida, Ischia, &c.
8. Concluding view of the Volcanic Formations of the District, with Notes upon the whole Series.

These notices have been more or less fully translated into various French, Swiss, and German Journals; and Professor Lyell has drawn up his account of this district in a great measure from them.—*Geology*, Vol. I.

On Self-registering Thermometers. *Edin. Journal of Science*, No. XVIII.

On the Temperature of Springs near Edinburgh.—*Edin. New Phil. Journal*, 1828.

1829. Account of a New Self-Registering Thermometer. *Id.* No. XIX.



On the Defects of the Sympiesometer, as applied to the Measurement of Heights. *Id.* No. XX.

Analysis of Schouw's work, entitled "Specimen Geographiæ Physicæ Comparativæ." *Id.* New Series, No. I.

On a remarkable Boulder Stone in the Pentland Range. *Edin. New. Phil. Jour.* 1829.

The Article THERMOMETER in the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*.

1830. Description of a New Anemometer. *Edin. Journ. Science*, New Series, No. III.

The Article VESUVIUS in the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*.

1831. Memoir on Barometrical Instruments acting by Compression, considered particularly in their application to the Measurement of Heights; including some New Trigonometrical Determinations: Part i. *Ed. Journ. Science*, New Series, No. VII. Part ii. No. VIII.

Observations respecting Professor LESLIE'S Formula for the Decrease of Heat in the Atmosphere, and his opinions respecting Polar Temperature. *Id.* New Series, No. IX.

Review of MACCULLOCH'S System of Geology. *Id.* New Series, No. IX.

Memoir on the Horary Oscillations of the Barometer near Edinburgh, deduced from 4410 Observations; with an inquiry into the Law of Geographical Distribution of the Phenomenon. Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, April 1831. Published in the Transactions of that Body, vol. xii.; in the *Edin. Journ. Science*, April 1832; and translated in the *Bibliothèque Universelle*, 1832.

1832. Notice respecting certain Vibrations of Heated Metals.  
*Ed. Journ. Science*, New Series, No. XI.

Notice respecting a Vitrified Fort at Caradale in Argyllshire, *Id.* New Series, No. XI.

An Account of some experiments on the Electricity of Tourmaline and other minerals, when exposed to Heat. Read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Jan. 1832.

An Examination of Mr CRICHTON'S Mode of Determining the Maximum Density Point of Water. Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, January 1832.

Notice respecting the Application of Optical Principles to the Distinction of Ambiguous Results of Chemical Action. Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, March 1832.

Account of a Repetition of Mr FARADAY'S Recent Experiments in Electro-Magnetism. Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, April 1832.

Account of some Experiments in which an Electric



Spark was elicited from a Natural Magnet. Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 16th April 1832. Published in their Transactions, vol. xii., and Philosophical Magazine for July. See also Phil. Mag. for May, and Mr FARADAY's Paper in that for June. Likewise the *Bibliothèque Universelle*; SILLIMAN's *American Journal of Science*; and the New (4th) Edition of Dr TURNER's Chemistry.

Report upon the Recent Progress and Present State of the Science of Meteorology. Read before the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Oxford, June 1832, being one of a Series of Reports, drawn up at the invitation of the Society at their Meeting in 1831.

This Report is now in the progress of being printed. The other Scientific Reports were written by Professor AIRY, Mr LUBBOCK, Sir D. BREWSTER, Mr WILLIS, Professor POWELL, Professor CUMMING, Mr JOHNSTON, Mr WHEWELL, and Mr CONYBEARE.

Notice sur la Détermination des Positions Géographiques du Prieuré de Chamouni et de l'Hospice du Grand St Bernard. Lue à la Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, Nov. 1832.

Description de quelques Phénomènes remarquables observés sur le Rigi. Lue à la Société de Physique, &c., Nov. 1832.

*RECOMMENDATION of Mr FORBES as a Fellow of the  
Royal Society of London.*

JAMES DAVID FORBES, Esq. F. R. S. Ed., F. G. S.,  
of Greenhill, near Edinburgh, a gentleman well acquainted  
with various branches of Natural Science and Mathematics,  
and well known by his researches on Meteorological phenomena,  
being desirous of becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society,—we,  
whose names are underwritten, do, from our  
personal knowledge, recommend him as highly deserving of  
that honour, and likely to prove a valuable and useful member.

*Read 5th March 1832.*

*Elected June 7, 1832.*

D. BREWSTER.  
ROD. I. MURCHISON.  
A. SEDGWICK.  
GEO. PEACOCK.  
H<sup>v</sup>. CODDINGTON.  
W. H. SMYTH.  
S. H. CHRISTIE.  
CHA. LYELL.  
W. WHEWELL.  
PHILLIP P. KING.  
WILLIAM RITCHIE.  
CHA<sup>s</sup>. DAUBENY.  
DION. LARDNER.  
M. FARADAY.

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