

Testimonials in favour of Herbert Strong, candidate for the Chair of Humanity in the University of Aberdeen.

Publication/Creation

Teignmouth : B.O. May, 1868.

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TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

HERBERT STRONG, B.A.,

OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD.

CANDIDATE FOR

THE CHAIR OF HUMANITY

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.

TEIGNMOUTH:

PRINTED BY B. O. MAY, BANK STREET.

1868.

REVISED EDITION

BY

HERBERT SPENCER

OF

THE PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS

IN TWO VOLUMES

LONDON:

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO. LTD.

1902

TO THE RIGHT HON. GATHORNE HARDY, M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME
DEPARTMENT.

DEN CRESCENT, TEIGNMOUTH.

September 28th, 1868.

SIR,

I have the honour of presenting myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Humanity at the University of Aberdeen.

I shall be 27 years of age in November, and am a B. A. of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. I was educated at Winchester College, to which foundation I was elected in 1857 by open competition, and had the good fortune to be placed first on the list of Candidates.

While at Winchester I gained, besides the Prize given by Lord Saye and Sele, for proficiency in the 6th Form, the Junior Prize for Latin Verse (the Maltby,) and the Gold Medal given by the Crown, for the same class of Composition.

I gained an Exhibition at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in the year 1861, and took a First Class in

Moderations there. I also was mentioned by the Examiner as *Proximè Accessit* for the Gaisford, or Greek Verse prize in 1863.

I also gained the French Prize—to the study of which language, as well as that of German, I have devoted considerable attention.

I had the misfortune to be obliged to leave Oxford without competing for honours in the final Classical Schools, and I am aware that this is a serious defect in my Candidature for so important a post as the Humanity Professorship at the Aberdeen University, but I can conscientiously say that I have devoted much time and labour to the study of Latin since leaving Oxford. I am fond of the Classics as a study; and I am still fonder of them since they have brought me into contact with the Scotch Students at Glasgow University.

Of my success as a teacher in that University, I must beg you to judge by my testimonials. I can only say that I have experienced more pleasure in my intercourse with Scotch Students than I can express.


I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT A. STRONG.

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I.

To THE RIGHT HONOURABLE GATHORNE HARDY,
*Her Majesty's Principal Secretary for the Home
Department.*

From the SENATUS ACADEMICUS *of the* UNIVERSITY
OF GLASGOW.

SIR,

I am desired by the Senate of the University of Glasgow to certify that Mr. HERBERT A. STRONG has filled the post of Assistant to the Professor of Latin in this University for the last two years. In that capacity he has conducted a considerable portion of the ordinary class work both of the Senior and Junior Classes, and has delivered a number of Lectures to the Private (or highest) Class. We have reason to believe that in the discharge of these duties he has exhibited singular capacity. He has taught with vigour and success, he has kept the classes in perfect control, and he has been highly successful in stimulating the energies, and enlisting the affection of the Students.

We believe that he is eminently qualified, both as a scholar and a teacher, for the post for which he is at present a candidate, and that his removal elsewhere would prove a serious loss to this University.

Permit me to add, that when I recently expressed my own private opinion in favour of Mr. Milroy's candidature for the same office, I was not aware that Mr. Strong was an applicant. I am bound to say that I feel no less confident with respect to Mr. Strong, that, if appointed to the Professorship at Aberdeen, he would prove an able and distinguished Professor.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your very obedient Servant,

T. BARCLAY,

Principal.

II.

From G. G. RAMSAY, M.A., Professor of Humanity in the University of Glasgow, formerly Scholar of Trinity College, Oxford.

BAMFF HOUSE,

September 21st, 1868.

I have the greatest pleasure in recording my opinion of the peculiar fitness of Mr. HERBERT A. STRONG for such a post as that of Professor of Humanity in a Scotch University.

I was well acquainted with Mr. STRONG at Oxford, during the years 1862—1863, where he

was known to be an excellent scholar, with great taste and judgment in composition, and where he distinguished himself by obtaining an Exhibition at Corpus Christi College, a First Class in Classical Moderations, and was "proximè accessit" for the Gaisford Prize (open to the whole University) for excellence in Greek verse. His career at Oxford was unfortunately cut short by private circumstances, and he was thus unable to read for honours in the final degree examination.

In 1866, Mr. STRONG was on my recommendation appointed Assistant to myself by the Glasgow University Court, a position which he still holds. In that capacity, he has had experience of every part of the class work. He has conducted a great portion of the ordinary class work of the Senior and Junior Classes; he has taken the principal charge of the Latin Prose composition of the Senior class; and during the last Session he has conducted a portion of the work of the Private Class, in which continuous lectures or prelections are delivered by the professor. He has, in addition, assisted me in the written examinations, and in the whole of the organization and practical details of the class work.

In every respect, I can hardly speak too strongly of the admirable manner in which he has discharged the duties of his position—duties often more difficult to an Assistant than to a Professor—and of the loss both to myself and to the class which would be entailed by his removal elsewhere. He has interested himself warmly in every portion of his work, and spared neither time nor labour in his devotion to it. He has treated the subjects he had to teach with a zeal, an energy and a liveliness which have proved in the highest degree stimulating to the students. He has shewn great power in the management of our large classes; and while his courtesy and geniality have secured him the esteem of the students and made him one of the most popular teachers amongst us, his firmness, tact, and strength of character have commanded their respect, and checked the slightest approach to triviality and unruliness.

He is a man of strong will, high principle and scrupulous honour; free from every kind of pedantry and affectation; and with a warmth and freshness of heart that have endeared him to all his friends.

From his personal character; from his attainments as a scholar; and from his success as a

lecturer, as a teacher, and in the management of classes, I feel strongly that he possesses in a high degree those peculiar qualities which fit a man to become a successful professor.

GEORGE G. RAMSAY, M.A.

III.

*From J. CONINGTON, Esq., M.A., Professor of Latin,
and Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.*

Mr. STRONG attended my lectures in Latin Verse Composition for several Terms during his residence at Oxford, and I also know him personally. His verses were always good, and sometimes brilliant. His knowledge of Classical Scholarship was I believe considerable: though, not having been one of his Examiners, I had no opportunity of personally testing it. His actual distinctions speak for themselves. From time to time I have heard of his success as a Tutor in different fields: and I need not say that the testimony he is able to bring of his power of imparting knowledge to Scotch Students, is of great importance with reference to the post which he is now seeking. His character at Oxford always stood high, and I believe he was a general favourite among his

fellow students. My own intercourse with him was uniformly pleasant. I know him to be greatly interested in Education, as well as in his own special subject, the teaching and acquisition of Scholarship.

J. CONINGTON, M.A.

IV.

From the Rev. E. C. WICKHAM, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford.

MR. HERBERT A. STRONG was my pupil for some time at Winchester College in the years 1857—1859, and I have known him intimately ever since. I saw a good deal of him, and had opportunities of judging of his taste and progress in scholarship while he was an Under Graduate at Oxford. I have always considered him to be a very able man and to possess considerable aptitude for a literary or educational life. He was distinguished both at school and here as a writer of excellent Greek and Latin Verse, but his scholarship was never of the kind which is confined to that accomplishment. He had from the time I first knew him a genuine enthusiasm for Greek and Latin Literature and a very Classical taste—and I

know no one who has more steadily and successfully continued to the present time to improve himself both in taste and knowledge. It is but fair to him to say that his actual University distinctions (a First Class in Moderations and a *proximè accessit* to a Gaisford Greek Composition prize,) should yet not be taken as a perfect measure of his attainments—or of the position to which he might fairly have looked at Oxford. His University course was cut short in the middle by his acceptance of an appointment in India, which subsequently on family grounds he threw up again.

He has been a successful teacher, I believe, both at Glasgow and at a school where the highest classical work was in his hands.

He likes teaching, and teaches I know in a lively and interesting way, and I noticed that his Glasgow pupils, in a grateful address which they presented to him a little while ago, spoke especially of his skill in managing a large class.

I will only add that he has always borne the highest possible character, and that he possesses just that enthusiasm and affectionate temperament which are calculated to attract and influence young minds.

E. C. WICKHAM, M.A.

From HENRY FURNEAUX, M.A., *Fellow and Tutor*
of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD,
September 24th, 1868.

I was intimately acquainted with Mr. H. A. STRONG during the whole time of his residence in this College, where he matriculated I think in 1860, and soon afterwards was elected to an open Exhibition in the College. He obtained a very good First Class in Moderations, and was soon afterwards *proximè accessit* for the Gaisford Prize for a very beautiful poem in Theocritean Greek Verse, but was unfortunately unable to stay long enough at the University to read for honours in the Final Schools. I consider him an excellent and accomplished scholar, with a remarkable taste and elegance in Composition, such as is very rare even among good scholars.

I believe him also to take the warmest interest both in the subjects which he teaches and in the persons who come under his instruction. He was always himself one of the pupils whom it was the greatest pleasure to teach, or to have anything to do with, and I should be most glad to hear of his advancement to a post for which I believe him to be so eminently qualified.

HENRY FURNEAUX, M.A.

*From the REV. AMBROSE SHORT, M.A., Head Master
of Oswestry Grammar School, late Fellow of New
College, Oxford.*

THE SCHOOL, OSWESTRY,
September 26th, 1868.

MR. HERBERT STRONG was Second Master of this School for a year and a half, and during that time I had the best opportunity of becoming acquainted with his character and attainments, as he lived entirely with me.

As a scholar he is known beyond this school, but his power of getting on his pupils is very remarkable, as well by his own instruction as by his power of encouraging them and inspiring them with interest in their work.

His enthusiasm in his work and his promising pupils is most conspicuous.

I should think it would be difficult to find a fitter person for the post of Professor of Humanity in a University. I may add that Mr. Strong is most pleasant to deal with in all other ways, besides his power and success in teaching.

AMBROSE SHORT, M.A.

VII.

From the REV. JAMES LEE WARNER, M.A., Fellow of University College, Oxford, late Assistant Master at Westminster.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,
September 29th, 1868.

I first had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. STRONG when he was my pupil for honours in Moderations, in which he finally obtained a First Class. I well remember the favourable impression his decided turn for Scholarship made upon me: his facility in Composition was remarkable, and its versatility as well as goodness was shown by the "Proximè Accessit" he obtained for the University Prize for Greek Verse in 1861, when the subject proposed was an imitation from Theocritus, and the successful candidate Mr. Bryce of Oriel. My removal from Oxford for some years prevents my speaking from personal knowledge of Mr. STRONG'S subsequent career; but I cannot refrain from adding my testimony to the personal qualities which struck me particularly in my own intercourse with him, his independence of character and his warmth and geniality of manner combined with his Scholarship attainments, these seem to me no common recommendations for the post for which he is now a candidate.

JAMES LEE WARNER.

VIII.

From FREDERICK MORSHEAD, Esq., M.A., *late Head Master of Beaumaris Grammar School, and formerly Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford.*

WINCHESTER COLLEGE,
September 28th, 1868.

I have great pleasure in stating my very high opinion of Mr. STRONG'S qualifications for such a position as the Humanity Professorship at the Aberdeen University.

I have known him intimately for many years, and have had many opportunities of becoming acquainted with his character and abilities. As a boy at Winchester, and as an Under Graduate at Oxford his reputation for fine scholarship stood deservedly very high—to which no doubt his College Tutors will bear ample testimony.

My own personal knowledge of him has been rather in his capacity of Teacher, than of learner. During the time that I was Head Master of Beaumaris school, Mr. STRONG twice came down to examine for the Trustees, and on one or two other occasions took classes of my bigger boys for a short time. He impressed every boy very forcibly at once

with his clearness and freshness in imparting knowledge, his power in engaging attention, and his tact in checking the least symptom of unruliness. One of my pupils who went by my advice to Glasgow last winter for the purpose of attending Mr. STRONG'S lectures, spoke of him afterwards to me in terms of the highest admiration and respect.

From all I know of him therefore, his high tone, his conscientious love of his work, his vivid vigorous method of teaching, and genial manly character, I feel certain that he is eminently qualified to hold such a post as that which he is now seeking.

FREDERICK MORSHEAD, M.A.

IX.

*From the Rev. W. A. FEARON, Fellow and late Tutor
of New College, Classical Master at Winchester
College.*

September 28th, 1868.

I have known Mr. HERBERT STRONG well for many years past: we were schoolfellows at Winchester College, and fellow-students at Oxford, and since

then we have met from time to time, though, as has necessarily happened, less frequently than before. I can confidently say that Mr. STRONG was always considered at Oxford, by those best able to judge, not merely one of the best scholars of his time, but a scholar singularly gifted with a fine taste and appreciation in classical subjects. He has a true interest in literature, and composes excellently. I have had no opportunity myself of hearing him teach, or meeting any of his pupils. But from all I know of him (and this is not little) I should have a most confident expectation that he would prove an admirable Teacher and Professor. His own enthusiasm for classical subjects, his generous interest in his pupils (which is always impressed on me, every time we meet,) his frank manly bearing, and finally his christian principles, must all combine to make him a most influential and valuable teacher. I may add that the keen interest he clearly takes in his classes at Glasgow, and generally in the system of Scotch education, promises to make him a specially efficient Professor in a Scotch University.

W. A. FEARON.

*From J. VEITCH, ESQ., Professor of Logic in the
University of Glasgow.*

THE COLLEGE, GLASGOW,
September 28th, 1868.

Mr. HERRERT STRONG, who is Assistant to the Professor of Humanity in this University, has in the course of his work here gained, and I feel assured most deservedly, the thorough respect and esteem of his students. I have uniformly heard him spoken of as an admirable classical teacher—scholarly, energetic, and spirited.

Mr. STRONG appears to me to be marked out as very few men are, by his attainments, culture, academical cast of mind, and personal character, for the position of a Classical Professorship in one of our Universities. It would give me great pleasure to see him appointed to the Humanity chair in Aberdeen. I am certain that in this he would find a congenial sphere of work, and one in which he would be eminently successful.

J. VEITCH.

From P. A. SIMPSON, M.D., M.A., CANTAB, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Andersonian University, Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. Physician to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, etc., etc.

8, BRANDON PLACE, GLASGOW,
September 30th, 1868.

I have very great pleasure in expressing the very high estimate I have formed of Mr. HERBERT A. STRONG, not only as an accomplished scholar and a successful teacher, but as a man of unusually great mental ability. My acquaintance with him dates from the time of his coming to Glasgow as assistant to Professor Ramsay, and since then I have had ample and repeated opportunities of observing his highly cultivated literary taste and his great aptitude for the acquisition of languages in general.

Mr. Strong is a fluent and explicit lecturer, and while he possesses abundance of that invisible moral force which alone can hold a class in perfect control, he is at the same time a universal favourite with his students.

His mental powers are of an exceedingly high order, and exhibit an amount of training which reflects honour upon the University where he graduated with so much credit to himself. In manner, as well as in every other way, Mr Strong is an accomplished gentleman, in the highest acceptation of the term.

He is calculated to adorn any sphere in which his lot may be cast, and is in my opinion certain to add lustre to the University of Aberdeen should he be appointed to fill the vacant Humanity Chair.

P. A. SIMPSON.

XII.

From the REV. G. STEWART BURNS, M.A., *Minister
of the Cathedral, Glasgow,*

GLASGOW,

2nd October, 1868.

I have been intimately acquainted with Mr. HERBERT A. STRONG during the time he has acted as Assistant to the Professor of Humanity in this University, and it gives me much pleasure to express my opinion of him. I look upon Mr. STRONG as a

man possessing much strength of character, high principles, and a singularly amiable disposition. I have seldom met a more loveable man, or one who gained more readily not only sincere regard, but also true respect. It is not for me to speak of his scholarship, but I may be allowed to state from personal knowledge that he has conducted his classes in the University here, in such a way as to win the unqualified approval of Professors and Students, by the latter of whom he was presented with a most laudatory address, and a valuable testimonial. Knowing something of the sort of man that is wanted for a Professor of Latin in a Scotch College, I can most honestly say that in my humble opinion Mr. STRONG is most admirably adapted for such an office.

G. STEWART BURNS, M.A.

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G. STEWART BURNS, M.A.