

**Testimonials in favour of the Rev. John Fyfe, M.A., candidate for the  
Professorship of Oriental Languages in the University of Aberdeen.**

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# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

THE REV. JOHN FYFE, M.A.,

Candidate for the Professorship of Oriental  
Languages in the University of  
Aberdeen.

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ABERDEEN:  
PRINTED BY ARTHUR KING & COMPANY,  
CLARK'S COURT, TOP OF BROAD STREET.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF

THE REV. JOHN FYFE, M.A.



Candidate for the

languages

of

A BUNDLE

PRINTED BY WALTER KING & COMPANY

GLASSGOW COURT, TOP OF BROAD STREET

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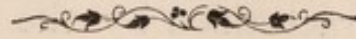
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# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

THE REV. JOHN FYFE, M.A.



*From The Very Reverend the PRINCIPAL, and the  
PROFESSORS of the University and King's College  
of Aberdeen.*

THE SENATUS ACADEMICUS of the University and King's College of Aberdeen consider it due to the Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., who has now for Six Years filled the office of Assistant Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy in the University, to express, in a public manner, the high sense which they entertain of that gentleman's services and merits.

Mr. Fyfe having concluded, in 1848, a very distinguished career as a Student in the Faculty of Arts, was, in 1854, chosen as his Assistant for a year by Dr. Scott, the Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy. Owing to the infirmities of Dr. Scott, the whole charge of the classes devolved upon Mr. Fyfe from the first; and of the manner in which his duties were discharged, no stronger proof can be desired than that, in accordance with the express and unanimous wish of the Senatus, he has been requested to resume the same important office for five successive

sessions, and has continued in it, with universal approbation, and with growing reputation and usefulness, to the present time.

Mr. FYFE combines, in an uncommon degree, great acuteness and great solidity of intellect. He is profoundly and extensively acquainted with the authors, ancient and modern, in the branches which have mainly occupied his mind as a Student and a Teacher. In conducting the Classes of Logic and Moral Philosophy he has displayed great attainments, unremitting zeal, and remarkable good sense and skill. His instructions are characterized by the lucidity so desirable in a Teacher of Philosophy, and by a contagious enthusiasm which awakens in the minds of young men a love for studies to which they often look with aversion; while his printed Examination Papers (particularly those prescribed to candidates for degrees with honours in his department), viewed along with the answers and compositions of his Students, shew how successful he has been in carrying his classes along with him, and how thoroughly and critically he has kept pace with and examined the works and speculations of modern writers.

Mr. Fyfe has always maintained in his classes the most perfect order—and that without the slightest difficulty—for it has been maintained, in a great measure, by the influence of his own character, as a man of high principle, as a scholar known to be thoroughly furnished for his work, and as a pains-taking, skilful, and profitable teacher. He appears to be singularly fortunate in earning the confidence, admiration, and lasting attachment of those who have the privilege of being placed under his care. He enjoys, at the same time, the affection and respect of all who know him, for his excellent principles and sound judgment, and

for the union of great firmness with great modesty and a most amiable disposition.

The Senatus, having had ample means during many years of judging of Mr. Fyfe, in every respect, do, unanimously, and in the most unqualified manner, express their belief that it will be difficult to find a person fitted to discharge the duties of a Professor, either of Logic, or of Mental or Moral Philosophy, more ably and successfully than these have been during the last six years discharged by Mr. Fyfe.

In name and by appointment of the Senatus, at  
King's College, this 19th day of April, 1860.

(Signed) P. C. CAMPBELL, D.D., *Principal.*

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*From the late* ANDREW SCOTT, M.A., *Professor of  
Oriental Languages in the University of Aberdeen.*

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN,  
15th April, 1853.

MR. JOHN FYFE, M.A., entered the Junior Hebrew Class in this University in December, 1848, and soon attracted my attention as a young man of great capacity and indefatigable diligence.

During the winter immediately following he attended the Senior Class, and although many of his fellow-students in both sessions were gentlemen of superior talents and studious habits, Mr. Fyfe's progress was uniformly conspicuous, and he acquired a proficiency in Biblical Hebrew quite extraordinary.

He also privately studied Arabic under my tuition, and became accurately acquainted with the Elements of that difficult language.

Judging from his zeal in the cultivation of Philological and general learning, and from the high satisfaction he has given at the Manse of Strathdon as a Teacher, I cannot entertain a doubt that his appointment to any situation for which he may become a candidate will be subservient to the best interests of education, and prove most creditable to those who may honour him with their patronage.

(Signed) ANDREW SCOTT, M.A.  
Professor of Oriental Languages.

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*From the Rev. DAVID LISTON, M.A., Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY,  
20th October, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,

It is now many years since I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with you, when you had charge of the education of the children of our good friend Mr. Meiklejohn, late Minister of Strathdon. I then had an opportunity of appreciating your worth and capacity, of both of which I formed a high estimate.

While at the Manse we were able to form a small class (of four) for Hindustani, and I well remember the great facility with which you acquired that tongue, to you altogether new, and the proficiency of your knowledge in it, which enabled you, as I understand, to give instruction to Indian officers with acceptance and success. We have not had occasion to meet much since, but I have never ceased to take an interest in you, and I have often heard from north-country-

men of the great esteem in which you are held as a man of high accomplishments.

The late Mr. Meiklejohn had, as I recollect, a high idea of your proficiency as a Hebraist, and, if I mistake not, when you came on your trials before the Presbytery, warranted you as fit to be tested as to your knowledge in any part of the Hebrew Scriptures.

I entertain a strong belief, that if elected to the Hebrew Chair now vacant in Aberdeen you will conduct the business of it with unwearied energy and with all imaginable success.

With best wishes, I remain,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) D. LISTON.

Rev JOHN FYFE,  
University of Aberdeen.

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*From* JOHN WEBSTER, Esq., Advocate, *Rector's Assessor in the University Court of the University of Aberdeen since its institution in 1860.*

31 KING STREET, ABERDEEN,  
21st October, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,

You inform me of your intention to offer yourself as a candidate for the vacant Chair of Oriental Languages in our University, and most heartily do I wish you success.

While I have held office for now a good many years in the University Court, I have had ample means of forming my own opinion of your mental powers and acquirements, and of learning the estimate held of them by others far better able to judge.

My full conviction is that Scotland possesses few men who are your equals in a profound acquaintance with Philology and Abstract Science, and that from capacity, grasp of mind, and powers of hard work, there is no department within or akin to these branches which you could not easily master. You have already, in the course of your connection with the University, given ample proof of your teaching powers, your influence with the students, and skill in giving life and animation to the work of your class; and I feel extreme pleasure in speaking of that conciliatory manner and address which would be attractive alike to colleagues and students.

Satisfied as I am that your appointment to this Chair will be most beneficial to the interests of the higher education of Theology in Scotland, I feel pleasure in being allowed this opportunity of expressing my sentiments in your favour.

Believe me,

MY DEAR SIR,

Very faithfully yours,

(Signed) JOHN WEBSTER.

The Rev. JOHN FYFE, A.M.,  
Librarian of the University.

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*From the Rev. WILLIAM MEARNES, D.D., Assessor for the General Council in the Aberdeen University Court, 1864-68, and Chancellor's Assessor since that time.*

I HAVE great pleasure in expressing the very high opinion I have been led to entertain of the talents and attainments of the Rev. JOHN FYFE. In the course of his University career he took a very high position

as a *linguist*, and in his Theological studies, he was eminently successful in his prosecution of Oriental literature, and has since that time continued to devote much of his attention to it. I have no doubt of his proving a highly energetic and efficient Professor of the Eastern languages, and I should consider such a man as Mr. Fyfe a most desirable acquisition to the *Theological Faculty*, and *in all* respects such as must prove for the best interests of the University itself.

(Signed) WM. MEARNS, D.D.  
Minister of Kinneff.

MANSE OF KINNEFF,  
October 22nd, 1870.

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*From the Rev. WILLIAM R. PIRIE, D.D., Professor of Divinity and Church History in the University of Aberdeen, and Assessor for the Senatus Academicus in the University Court.*

I HAVE much pleasure in certifying that I have been long acquainted with the Reverend JOHN FYFE, who was in my Class for several years; that I have always understood Mr. Fyfe to be a good scholar; and that his ability and energy are such as to justify an assurance that he will soon take a good position with respect to any subject to which he may in earnest apply his mind, while he has already given satisfactory proof of his competency to command the attention and maintain the discipline of a University Class.

Given at the University of Aberdeen this 22nd October, 1870, by

(Signed) W. R. PIRIE, D.D.,  
Professor of Divinity and Church History.

*From WILLIAM D. GEDDES, M.A., Professor of Greek  
in the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,

22nd October, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am glad to hear that you intend to come forward as a Candidate for the Chair of Oriental Languages, now vacant in this University.

The office is one which I consider you are highly qualified to fill, and my opinion rests on the following considerations — your capacity for teaching, your attainments in Hebrew Scholarship, and your energy of character.

The first of these qualifications you have already shown in a highly responsible position when you taught the Logic and Moral Philosophy Class for several sessions in the University and King's College. Many of your pupils, I believe, preserve a warm remembrance both of the value of the instructions you then communicated, and of the vigour and clearness with which they were conveyed.

Regarding the second point, your attainments in Hebrew Scholarship, I am not competent personally to judge, but I may state what I know, that the late Professor of Oriental Languages more than once expressed to me his opinion that you were in his estimate the foremost student he had taught at Aberdeen. Further, I have reason to know that you have not only given proof of high aptitude for Hebrew, but, with the ambition of a true scholar, have acquired a knowledge of kindred tongues, such as Arabic and Hindustani, in one of which, as I understand, you have acted as instructor.

As to the third element, or energy of character, it

is not necessary to say much on what is well known and recognised. In the difficult and responsible offices of Librarian and Registrar you have not only discharged the duties with vigour and success, but you have also earned the reputation, which one of your disposition most highly values, of unbending integrity. To those who know your conscientiousness and love of truth it will not seem strange to say that they will deem you worthy of an office when they come to know that you consider yourself worthy of the same.

I wish you, therefore, every success in your application, and

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) WM. D. GEDDES.

Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A.

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*From* FREDERICK FULLER, M.A., *Professor of Mathematics in the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,  
October 24, 1870.

THE Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., principal Librarian of the University of Aberdeen, being a Candidate for the vacant Chair of Oriental Languages, I have great pleasure in stating that I have known him for many years, both in his present capacity and also while deputy to the late Professor of Moral Philosophy in King's College.

Mr. Fyfe appears to me to be a gentleman of great ability, of extensive and varied knowledge, and of

most conscientious industry and application. He has always done well whatever he has undertaken, he proved a successful and popular teacher, and has given universal satisfaction in the discharge of his duties hitherto. I think that his appointment to the Professorship of Oriental Languages would be highly advantageous and acceptable to the students, and I should feel very great pleasure in receiving him as a colleague.

(Signed) FREDERICK FULLER, M.A.,

Professor of Mathematics in the University of Aberdeen,  
late Fellow and Tutor of St. Peter's  
College, Cambridge.

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*From the* Rev. WILLIAM MARTIN, LL.D., *Professor  
of Moral Philosophy in the University of Aberdeen.*

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,  
27th October, 1870.

SINCE the Union of the Colleges in 1860, Mr. FYFE has repeatedly held a public position in this University as an Examiner for Degrees and Scholarships, and in that capacity I have been brought into very close acquaintance with him. I have ever found him conscientious in the highest degree, accurate, intelligent, and scholarly. I have indeed never found him fail in the discharge of any of the duties he has ever undertaken in connection with the University, and I feel confident he never will undertake any office whose duties he will not set himself most assiduously to perform.

(Signed) WILLIAM MARTIN.

[The next three Testimonials are selected from those of gentlemen along with whom Mr. FYFE studied in the Hebrew Classes in the University.]

*From the Rev. JOHN WEBSTER, M.A., Minister of  
Cameron, St. Andrews.*

HAVING been a Student of Hebrew in the University of Aberdeen along with the Reverend JOHN FYFE, A.M., I am glad of an opportunity of stating the impression then made upon my mind as to his aptitude for Hebrew studies.

I well remember that Mr. Fyfe was *facile princeps* in the Hebrew Class, and that he gave most decided indications of a taste for Hebrew literature, and of ability to become an accomplished Hebraist. I have reason to think that he has continued diligently to prosecute his studies since then ; and in consideration of his general scholarship, his energy of character, his love for teaching, and his undoubted faculty of communicating instruction with success, I give it as my conscientious opinion that the appointment of Mr. Fyfe to the Hebrew Chair now vacant, would bring a most valuable addition to the Professorial staff in the University of Aberdeen.

Given at Manse of Cameron this 21st day of October, 1870, by

(Signed) JOHN WEBSTER.

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*From the Rev. GEORGE DAVIDSON, M.A., Minister of  
Logie-Coldstone.*

MANSE OF LOGIE-COLDSTONE,  
20th October, 1873.

UNDERSTANDING that the Rev. JOHN FYFE intends to offer himself as a Candidate for the Hebrew Chair of the Aberdeen University, I take the liberty of expressing my humble opinion as to his fitness for that office.

Having had the pleasure of being a class-fellow of his, both in the Arts and Divinity Classes, I had thus ample opportunities of knowing him. I now feel happy to bear testimony to the unwearied diligence and eminent success with which he devoted himself to the pursuits of literature and science. His acknowledged superiority to most of his fellow-students appeared nowhere so conspicuously as in the study of Hebrew, to which, during his Divinity course, he devoted himself so earnestly and successfully as to command alike the approbation of his teacher, and the admiration of his fellow-pupils. The thorough foundation then laid in this and some of the cognate languages has been much enlarged since leaving College, by the constant study of these tongues. His eminent ability in imparting instruction and securing the warm affection and lasting gratitude of his pupils, is known to very many in the north of Scotland. His appointment to the Chair of Hebrew and Oriental Languages would, I have every reason to believe, command the hearty approval of all who know him, either personally or by report.

*(Signed)*

GEORGE DAVIDSON,  
Minister of Logie-Coldstone.

*From the Rev. DONALD MASSON, M.A., M.D., Minister of the Gaelic Church, Edinburgh.*

MY DEAR MR. FYFE,

As a candidate for the Hebrew Chair you have my best wishes; for I can honestly say that I do not know any man so well fitted as you are to fill that Chair, not less with honour to the University and credit to yourself than to the furtherance of sound Biblical learning.

Like all who were your fellow-students in Arts and Theology I can testify that in Hebrew, as indeed in almost all the branches of academic study, you were distinguished alike for extent and for the depth the and thoroughness of your attainments.

Of your high character, your acknowledged eminence as a scholar, and your varied Academic experience, it is not for me to speak; but it may not be unbecoming in me to add that, when I remember the energy, modest manliness, rare good sense, and ready mother-wit, as well as the singular power of extemporary exposition, which marked you as a student, I have the strongest assurance that, if promoted to a Professorship, you will be eminently successful in the practical work of teaching.

Yours, my dear Mr. Fyfe, very sincerely,

*(Signed)* DONALD MASSON, M.A., M.D.

ST. FILLANS, HOPE TERRACE,  
EDINBURGH, 22nd October, 1870.

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[The following Testimonials are selected from a number received by Mr. FYFE, from gentlemen who were students in the Class of Logic and Moral Philosophy whilst he was Assistant-Professor.]

*From JAMES STIRLING, Esq., M.A., Senior Wrangler in 1860, and now Barrister-at-Law, London,*

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
30th April, 1860.

HAVING been a student under the Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., at King's College, Aberdeen, during session 1854-55, I willingly testify to the skill with which he taught the Moral Philosophy Class. Order was maintained with energy and firmness. The subjects which he brought under its notice were clearly stated and illustrated. Though there was no ostentatious display of learning, yet it was clear that he had read extensively; and at the same time had formed his opinions by careful reflection and independent judgment. His criticisms on the written essays were judicious and impartial; and, when he had occasion to animadvert on what he considered erroneous his views were expressed in decided terms, but so as to show that his aim was not to dogmatize but to convince.

I may add that, having had opportunities for meeting Mr. Fyfe since our connection as teacher and scholar ceased, I have been deeply impressed by the high principle and thorough independence which mark his character; while his geniality and desire to oblige have led me to regard him with friendly feelings, and to wish him success both on the present occasion and throughout his life.

(Signed) JAMES STIRLING, B.A.

*From* THOMAS BARKER, Esq., M.A., *Senior Wrangler,*  
1862, *and now Professor of Mathematics in Owen's*  
*College, Manchester.*

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,  
28th April, 1860.

UNDERSTANDING that the Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., is a Candidate for the Chair of Logic in the University of Aberdeen, I have much pleasure in testifying to the eminent degree in which I think him qualified for that office. During the Session 1856-57, I attended the Class of Logic and Moral Philosophy in King's College, which was taught by Mr. Fyfe. There I was led to form the highest opinion of him, both as a Teacher and a Gentleman. His lectures showed that he was very extensively acquainted with his subject, and he displayed great acuteness and soundness of judgment in his criticisms and comparisons of the philosophical writers of ancient and modern times; while his zeal in conducting the business of the class, could not fail to excite, even in the most careless, an interest in the subject discussed, and his firmness in doing his duty, combined with his unassuming manners, rendered it easy for him, at all times, to maintain good order in the Class.

I may also be allowed to add, that I was, for more than a year, one of the Assistant-Librarians under Mr. Fyfe in King's College Library; and the more intimate contact into which I was thus brought with him, served only to increase the esteem which I already entertained for him. His kind and obliging disposition made it a pleasure to be under him, and, I think, gave great satisfaction to all who were in the habit of visiting the Library.

*(Signed)*

THOMAS BARKER.

*From the Rev. JAMES SMITH, M.A., B.D., Classical  
Examiner in the University of Aberdeen, 1867-70.*

HAVING had the good fortune to be a student at the University when Mr. FYFE conducted the Class of Moral Philosophy, and having had the pleasure of his acquaintance ever since, I am glad to have an opportunity of testifying my grateful appreciation of his enlightened and indefatigable labours as a Substitute-Professor, and my sense of his fitness for the vacant Chair of Hebrew and Oriental Languages.

To many who, like myself, were acquainted with the extent of Mr. Fyfe's attainments, the vigour of his mind, the enthusiasm of his character, and his great aptitude for teaching, taken in connection with his University experience and habits, it was matter of regret that no Chair was found for him on the reorganisation of the University ten years ago; and I am very sure that his appointment to the Professorship of Hebrew would be hailed with satisfaction by a large circle of graduates and others, not only as the bestowal of a well-merited distinction, but as a guarantee for the vigorous prosecution of Hebrew studies in the University—studies which are admitted to stand in need of every possible stimulus.

*(Signed)* JAMES SMITH, B.D.

NEWHILLS MANSE, *October 19, 1870.*

*From the Rev. DUNCAN MACPHERSON, M.A., Senior  
Chaplain of the Church of Scotland in Bombay,  
and Examiner in the University of Bombay.*

ABERDEEN, 21st October, 1870.

MY DEAR MR. FYFE,

I rejoice to learn that you have consented to apply for the Professorship of Oriental Languages in our Aberdeen University.

Your not merely possessing a thorough knowledge of Hebrew, but your having also for years studied other Oriental Languages, makes you eminently qualified for a Chair, to the occupier of which our Church and our Country have a right to look for large and enlightened investigations of those subjects of critical inquiry connected with the language and literature of the Old Testament, which are in these times of so great interest and importance. The energy and the keenness and solidity of intellect which you brought to bear on the work of the King's College Moral Philosophy Class when it was under your care, make your old pupils look back on your teaching with a gratitude as great as is the profound respect with which they learned to regard you personally. I venture to prophecy that, if appointed to the Chair of Oriental Languages, you will infuse a life and energy into the Hebrew Classes which will be a lasting boon to the Church throughout the North of Scotland.

Believe me to be,

Most faithfully yours,

(Signed)

D. MACPHERSON.

*From the Rev. JOHN BLACK, M.A., Professor of  
Humanity in the University of Aberdeen.*

IT is with very sincere pleasure that I express my opinion of those high qualities of head and heart which seem to me to mark out the Rev. JOHN FYFE, M.A., as peculiarly fitted for the vacant post of Hebrew Professor in our University.

My acquaintance with Mr. Fyfe dates from the time when he was appointed to conduct the Class of Logic and Moral Philosophy in King's College, as substitute for the late Dr. H. Scott. Having been a member of the first class taught by Mr. Fyfe, and intimately acquainted with him from that period till now, I have had the best possible means of forming a judgment as to his scholarship and teaching power. Though, at the time when I was his pupil, he was still a very young man, with little experience, and without the status (while he had to do the whole duty) of a Professor, it is no more than simple justice to say that he was as much esteemed and beloved by his class as any Professor was or could desire to be. After six years of increasing success and popularity as a University teacher, Mr. Fyfe's services were rendered unnecessary by the arrangements consequent on the union of King's and Marischal Colleges. To many who knew his worth this was a source of sincere regret; and the very high testimonial granted him by the Senatus on that occasion would, I am certain, have been endorsed without hesitation by a great majority of the young gentlemen who had studied under his charge.

Since that time Mr. Fyfe has filled continuously the offices of Librarian and Registrar to the University, and of Secretary to the University Court and to the University Council, and has displayed in these capacities a degree of energy, intelligence, and integrity, that are now very highly and generally appreciated. He has also during the same period been thrice elected by the University Court to one of the Examinerships for Degrees in Arts, an office which has always commanded the highest talent and scholarship to be found among our younger graduates. For the last two years he has held, by appointment of the Senatus, the office of Special Examiner for the Fullerton Classical and Philosophical Scholarships, and I have always, as one of the Professorial Examiners, had the greatest satisfaction and confidence in cooperating with him.

To the performance of these varied duties, Mr. Fyfe has brought an unusually clear intellect, sound and extensive learning, lively and agreeable manners, an obliging disposition, and high moral worth combined with remarkable steadfastness and decision of character. I have no hesitation in saying that he is altogether one of the best and most talented men of my acquaintance.

Though I cannot profess to be a competent judge of Mr. Fyfe's attainments in the special field of Oriental Languages, it is many years since I was aware of his high reputation among his fellow-students and other friends as a Hebraist, and of his diligent study, not only of the Hebrew language, but also of Arabic and Hindustani. And so thoroughly am I satisfied of his linguistic power, his studious habits, his conscientiousness and enthusiasm, his aptness to

teach, and his ability to impress and deal with students, that I should regard his nomination to the Chair now vacant as no ordinary gain to the University, and to the interests of Oriental Scholarship in the North of Scotland.

(Signed) JOHN BLACK, M.A.,  
Professor of Humanity.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN,  
27th October, 1870.



