

(Script.) I would venture to suggest that you would be well to consider it if you had an offer, you might cable to that effect before you cable. If you do so, I think it will be well to cable to Turner and perhaps also to the Secretary of the Curators.

7 Heriot Row,

Edinburgh.

Mar. 28, 1900.

My dear Osler,

I have just come back from London and Cambridge where I have been seeing a number of the leading men, and taking the opportunity of speaking of you in connection with the Chair of Medicine. I have found not only that everybody looks on you as the man for it, but that many are actively engaged in trying to get you, and that not only for our benefit, but for the benefit of scientific medicine in Great Britain.

And then to hear that you had withdrawn your application.

I am not going to believe that it is final, nor are my colleagues. I am sure you won't desert us, and leave us poorer than if we had never entertained the hope of your coming.

I don't think I will ever look some of the men in the face again including Lister &c, &c. But apart from that, I do not really believe that you cannot prevent an invitation or what will be tantamount to it, unless you declare that you will not come if invited.

I believe that the Curators have been so strongly impressed with the necessity of telling you that they will still try to do it, and certainly some of us, including Turner, refuse to abandon the hope.

This of course means that you would come with the determination on the part of the authorities to give you everything in their power that you asked for, and this also means that we should get for the subject of Medicine means for advance which we shall not get for many years if you do not come. And in formal circumstances, that means a great deal for the work of Great Britain and the Colonies.

I feel sure that you will not let your own feelings and the naturally strong desire of your many friends to keep you at Baltimore, prevent you from giving this aspect of the subject full consideration.

If you only knew how strong and widespread is the desire to get you, I do not think you will refuse. I have had opportunities of talking to nearly all the men of greatest eminence in the profession in England during the past few days, and everyone of them is most anxious that you should come, several are actively working for you. I hardly feel at liberty to mention names but you can easily fill them in. Several of the most eminent who had your testimonials to other men, offered to do anything they can to help your candidature.

The conclusion for all this is that I believe you will see the call of duty, and will therefore follow it.

P. T. O.



What I would venture to suggest is, that if you would be willing to accept if offered to you, or would at any rate, still be open to consider it if you had an offer, you might cable to that effect before April 14th. If you do so, I think it will be well to cable to Turner and perhaps also to the Secretary of the Curators.

I shall try to see Turner tomorrow, and ascertain what he thinks, but as to this, he is the most determined and most hopeful perhaps of us all, and has more influence than all the rest of us put together.

My cable address after April 8th till April 29th. will be "Greenfield, Elie" which is quite simple.

Don't give us up if you can help it. We think none the worse of you because you have won the hearts of the folks at Baltimore, as elsewhere.

And nothing you can say or do will make me give up hope or effort until the appointment is actually made.

Excuse this bad scrawl, and try and make out its drift.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. Greenfield.