

(From letter to Dr. Cushing)  
from Paterson )

26th October 1908

I have no doubt you have learned ere this that Osler did not succeed in becoming Lord Rector of Edingurgh University but he made a good fight for it in fact better than any previous non-political candidate has ever done. I inclose a part of an editorial from one of our Glasgow papers treating of the fight; from it you will gather that though Osler has been defeated he has yet reason to be proud of what he has achieved.

from GLASGOW HERALD- October 26-

xxx No doubt the result of the two polls is satisfactory, in so far as a Rectorial contest can be held to distil any political significance. But the Universities are inherently Conservative. That is one reason for the contempt in which they are held by many Socialist orators; and one can hardly be surprised if Mr. Keir Hardie's opinion of the academic intelligence now stands lower than ever. Our chief seats of learning have merely followed precedent in preferring Lord Curzon to Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Wyndham to Mr. Churchill, and both of the latter to an Independent academic candidate. But aspects of peculiar interests in these contests are the extreme narrowness of Lord Curzon's majority, the existence of a triangular contest in both Universities at the same term, and the fact that a purely academic candidate should at last have challenged two politicians so stoutly as Professor Osler did in Edinburgh. Twenty years ago the supporters of so distinguished a savant as the late Max Muller, after entering him for the Rectorial Stakes, and publishing a good deal of "literature" much too deep for the ordinary undergraduate, prudently withdrew him from an unequal contest with Lord Rosebery and Lord Lytton. Professor Osler has achieved a measure of success never approached by any non-political candidate. xxx