

J. M. Honey
May 1868

Haxton House
Berwick-on-Tweed.

9 May 1868

Sir

I am one of the Curators of the Edinburgh University to whom you have applied to be appointed Principal of that University -

A meeting of the Curators was held yesterday, at which your letter was read, offering yourself as a Candidate -

Alongst with that letter, there was read by me a letter from Sir Ch. Lyell, & one from Mr Davidson, giving testimony to your qualifications on most points -

Mr Davidson is now & has been for the last 3 weeks in the South of France; so that I am obliged to communicate with ^{yourself on} ~~you~~ ~~direct~~ this subject -

The Curators are desirous of obtaining farther information regarding your qualifications; - and they have, on

this account agreed to delay the appointment till 18th June, that being also the day fixed for the filling up of this vacancy in the Moral Philosophy Chair

The Curators are satisfied of your knowledge & reputation as a geologist. They however desire to know whether you can give evidence of your acquaintance with any other departments of science, literature, or art. There is a strong feeling that the person who is to be Principal of a University & to preside over the *Senatus Academicus* sh^d be a person of more general acquirements; - at least, that the Candidate who happens to be chosen sh^d be pre-ferred.

They desire also to know something of your social position at Montreal; - and of your means of upholding the respectability of the office, in the eyes of the Community, and also of strangers,

towards whom it may be necessary to show courtesy & perhaps even hospitality -

I understand that besides an Tricome from the University at Montreal of about £700, you have a free residence provided for you there. The income of the Edin^B - Principal is also about £700, - without a house - But application is being made to Government to increase the emoluments of the Principal; - and we hope to succeed, though to what extent, it is impossible to say -

It would be also desirable to know of what Church you are a member. - One of the Candidates has found it to be a disadvantage that he is an Episcopalian, and suspected to have imbibed the peculiar religious views imputed to Professor Jowett of Oxford -

You will not be surprised that the Curators w^d respect the Presbyterian & Orthodox views of the Community of Edinburgh -

One of the Curators yesterday asked me whether you were a graduate of Edinburgh University, & by what body you had been made L.L.D. I could not inform him.

Another Curator asked, what had you done for the benefit of the 'McGill University as Principal, - and what were your duties as Principal?

I need scarcely say, that if besides answering all these queries yourself, you can get any of the influential people of Montreal who are acquainted with you, to answer them, it will be an advantage, and you will be only following the course usual on such occasions -

You will perceive that no time must be lost, in sending information on these points -

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

David Milne Home

J. Dawson
Principal of McGill University
Montreal - Canada