

## Supplementary Text 1

## Correspondence

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 16 August 1855 (A, 61, n 8)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
Thursday 5 P.M.  
(Aug: 16<sup>th</sup> 1855)

My dearest Annie,

I write first to you to secure the post. I got here safely going first to Mackay's hotel—I had tea and found D<sup>r</sup> S. as busy as [...] with two or three young doctors waiting to ask his patronage for the vacant chair. He told me that he had telegraphed to me and that I had done right to come. I am writing in all directions for testimonials. I fear it will not be possible for me to get home tomorrow night as I should have to leave by 3 o'clock to do that, but I will try and get away by the night-mail which reaches York at 4 in the morning.

I hope you are in better spirits, darling. I sleep here.

(7 o'clock) I have just time to say that Simpson tells me I shall have to write letters all night—I have written ten in an hour and a half. I am dearest

Your aff<sup>c</sup>

T. Laycock

*T. Laycock to B. Sequard, n.d. [c. 16 August, 1855] (A, 62, n 11)*

At Professor Simpson's  
52, Queen Street  
Edinburgh

Dear Sir:

The community of our pursuits induces me to venture upon your kindly feelings and ask from you a testimonial as to my fitness for the chair of Medicine in this University, for which I am a candidate.

I forward to you herewith a catalogue of my published writings and beg to assure you that I shall feel proud to add your name to the list of my contributors of testimonials.

I have the honour to be, Dear Sir, with much respect

Yours most truly

T. Laycock

Please to forward your reply to my address here  
[...] M. Le D<sup>r</sup> Brown Sequard

*Correspondence*

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 17 August 1855 (A, 68, n 26)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
17 Aug. 1855

Dearest Annie,

I cannot by any possibility get away to-day. I am writing letters and canvassing about every moment—I hope to be at home either to-morrow night or Sunday night. Please send to the Dispensary that I am not at home or else to M<sup>r</sup>. Moore to ask him to see the patients for me. There are several candidates—D<sup>r</sup> Jenner of London, D<sup>r</sup> Wood, D<sup>r</sup> Bennett, D<sup>r</sup> Douglass all of Edinburgh. I have a very reasonable chance of success; everybody says neither local influence nor anything else will interfere with the choice of the best man. D<sup>r</sup> Simpson is exceedingly kind and will I am sure do all he can consistently with his position. He took me out with him into the Country and I was consulted by a surgeon at Ratho. When I thanked him for thinking of me, He said “Oh! indeed! I’ve been always thinking of you.”! If anything of importance occurs please to telegraph.

I hope Edmund & Georgie are flourishing and yourself dearest, better. Mackay remembered me again as having been at the hotel with you. With kisses for you and the bairns

I am your aff<sup>e</sup> Husband

TL.

M<sup>rs</sup> Simpson and the children are in the country I have seen none of our old friends yet.

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 18 August 1855 (A, 68, n 27)*

52. Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh

Dearest Annie,

I shall be at home if all’s well to-morrow (Sunday) night by the train reaching York at 9.28 (Twenty eight minutes past nine). To-day I am again calling upon the members of the Town Council; in the evening a small dinner party at D<sup>r</sup> Simpson’s Country seat near the sea. We went down there last night. M<sup>rs</sup> Simpson looks thin. Her boys, David and Walter away. Jessie, Willie, [...] and another boy whose name I forgot are at the country place. There is just the same state of things. I have been kindly received by those of the Town Council I have met with. M<sup>r</sup> R. Chambers wanted me to go the Roslyn where he has a house to spend the Sunday there. D<sup>r</sup> Priestley who is engaged to be married to one of the daughters is D<sup>r</sup> Simpson’s assistant and is very kind in assisting me. He is going over too. The weather is beautiful and I drive about in an open cab.

With best love to you dearest and kisses to the bairns I am

Your aff<sup>e</sup>

T Laycock

I was disappointed in not having a letter this morning to say how things were going on. Mrs Chambers has just called and sends her love.

*Supplementary Text 1*

*A. Jacob to T. Laycock, 18 August 1855 (A, 62, n 12)*

Ely Place  
Dublin  
Aug. 18 [18]55

My dear Doctor

I rec<sup>d</sup> your letter this day and will put in train without delay operations to secure its object. Have you such a thing as a list of publications?; if so send me one as people require to have their Memories refreshed for details. I put your last paper in last press.

Yours truly,  
A. Jacob

*H. Holland to T. Laycock, 18 August 1855 (A, 64, n 23)*

Brook St[?] August 18

My dear Sir

One line, written in much haste, on the verge of leaving Town, & amidst a great deal of business

I shall rejoice if you attain this object; & when the period approaches, & I return to London, will seek to render you all the aid I can,—with one single proviso, that if Alison, who is one of my oldest & most intimate friends, should interest himself, & seek to interest me, for any particular person as his Successor, I should feel myself obliged to be neutral at least, if not aiding the Candidate whom he wishes for. At the same time, I may mention that I make it a point of conscience on these cases, never to aid, unless I actually know myself the merits of the person which I do in your case.—I shall be very glad to hear that Alison is favourable to your views.

I hardly know whether I write intelligibly, as I have a dozen letters before me to answer for this post.

I do not actually leave England before the 24<sup>th</sup>; & letters will find me, directed here till that time. I had intended to write, at some moment of more leisure the suggestions occurring to me regarding the Article for the Edinburgh, so that you might have them before I leave England; but perhaps you will scarcely feel inclined now to put your hand to the work. If you still do, send me a line, & I will write to you, either from the Country, or London if I happen to be home for a day.

Ever yours, my dear Sir  
most truly  
H. Holland

*Correspondence*

*Letter, H. Cooper to T. Laycock, 20 August 1855 (A, 64, n 22)*

Hull August 20—  
1855

Dear D<sup>r</sup> Laycock,

I enclose with much pleasure a letter to the Town Council of Edinburgh, which be so good as address in due form.

I sincerely wish you success, but my belief is, none but a Scotchman will get it.

Yours faithfully  
Henry Cooper

*W. O. Priestley to T. Laycock, 20 August 1855 (A, 74, n 37)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
Aug<sup>st</sup> 20/55

My dear Doctor,

I have received your address to the Gov. of the York Hospital and shewn it to D<sup>r</sup> Simpson. He thinks the testimonials and contributions are very good, but not half spread out, as they should be. For instance the titles of some of the men who gave you testimonials should be longer; the Contributions made more of, and each essay on the same subject made to stand out separately with its date and &c's.

The clinical lectures should each have a separate line, with any opinions from authors or reviewers you may be able to find.

You are to be sure, D<sup>r</sup> Simpson says to send him your proof before printing, and he will look forward with much interest to the weight of it.

All the men are working hard. Neligan has not yet appeared on the field. M<sup>r</sup> Chambers told me yesterday he would do anything in his power for you.

Yours very truly  
W<sup>m</sup>. O. Priestley

*T. Watson to T. Laycock, 21 August 1855 (A, 62, n 16)*

Private  
Corrybrough[?] Inverness  
August 21. 1855

My dear Sir.

Your letter addressed to me in London has at length overtaken me at this place, where I am spending a portion of my Autumnal holiday.

Your request involves me in some difficulty. Some years ago I was obliged to resolve to decline giving testimonials to any applicants who had not been my Pupils in the Hospital,

*Supplementary Text 1*

or in the Lecture Room. These last had, I thought, acquired a sort of right to the expression of my opinion respecting their professional attainments.

But in 1852, I was asked for such a testimonial by D<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Gairdner who was then a Candidate for the Chair of Physic in Glasgow. I considered his case as being in the category of my self-imposed restriction—and I wrote him a short commendatory note, begging him however not to print it—the appointment resting with the Crown) lest I should give offence, by even seeming to infringe my rule, to some of those really distinguished & deserving men whose applications of a similar kind I had been compelled to refuse.

A few days ago, Dr Gairdner wrote to know whether he might make use of that note, on the present occasion of the vacancy in the Chair of Physic in Edinburgh for which he is also a Candidate & I did not forbid him.

As I can have no reason to withhold from you what I have conceded to him, I send herewith a little note, which is entirely at your service if you think it worth your acceptance.

I must however say that I hold the whole system of testimonials—when applied to Physicians of your standing & eminence—to be derogatory from the credit of our Profession—and I wish with all my heart that the best men among us, when striving legitimately for offices of distinction, would refrain from offering these worthless tributes of commendation from others.

With sincere regard but in haste, I remain my dear Dr Laycock

Yours very truly

T. Watson

*J. Y. Simpson to T. Laycock, 22 August 1855 (A, 61, n 9)*

Arniston  
Gorebridge  
Aug: 22, 185.5.

My Dear D<sup>r</sup> Laycock—

I have been hurriedly taken out here (Arniston) to a midwifery case, & have brought your letter but unfortunately not your address. Before leaving, however, I glanced over it. The Chair is not as you call it, the “Chair of Medicine”, but the “Chair of the Practice of Physic”—or Practice of Medicine. My Chair is the “Chair of Medicine & Midwifery” (so is it officially termed);—Goodsir that “of Medicine & Anatomy; & so forth. All the Chairs in our faculty are in fact termed “Chairs of Medicine”; and you must not show any want of knowledge in this point—or it would perhaps stagger some of the Patrons on the other points.—Your Chair at York is, I believe—that of the Practice of Medicine or Physic also.—

### Correspondence

Perhaps it would be much better not to name the individual Professors you studied under at Paris. It is going in fact too far. As well name those you studied under at other Schools.—By all means mention your having studied at Paris & in Germany; but do not go to such particulars as the above. I think you should also state in your address 1. that you will give the evidence of your having having [*sic*] contributed somewhat to medical literature (do not say “largely” as Gairdner offensively does—let them see this from your subsequent proofs); 2 that you have a good standing for a person of your years—as a Consulting Physician in York &c; 3 & that you have had much occasion to study sanitary &c. matters as connected with physic. P.S. Far better omit all mention of being Physician to a Lunatic Asylum. It would do you harm in the Contest.

Ask testimonials from Wunderlich or any other Germans whom you have reviewed; but not cut up too badly.

I think the idea of reprinting the article on Ethics—very good. You must distribute it & your testimonials freely among the profession in Edinburgh. I am sorry I have not an opportunity of spreading it today.

A good testimonial or two from the clergy will easily prevent any cry of materialism. Perhaps it would be well to get one from M<sup>r</sup> Wellbeloved or other Dissenters—as well as from the Church party. Some of the Patrons would esteem the former more than the latter.

I do think your prospects brighten.—I am not aware whether or not D<sup>r</sup> Jenner will stand; but I have heard it hinted he is Unitarian & if so he has not the slightest chance in the present state of parties. Gairdner only lately left the Unitarian church. Some seem strongly set against the arrangement of Bennet & Sharpey.

Bennet is reprinting his former testimonials by which he gained the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine; & says he will not apply for new ones.

You must not in your Catalogue of writings huddle all your published lectures into one mass (as in your hospital testimonials); but give each lecture separately. In your list of review Essays—put some such heading—as “The following articles—(essays)—have appeared in the form of Reviews in so & so”. It will save you repeating each as a review.

“Blessed is the man that has found his work.” So says Tom Carlyle.—You have yours before you for some weeks—& you must work most earnestly at it.

When will you be down? Your room at 52 Queen St is ready for you always.

Yours very truly,

J. Y. Simpson

Tuesday forenoon

*Supplementary Text 1*

*Letter J. Y. Simpson to T. Laycock, "Tuesday night" [22 August 1855] (A, 62, n 10)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Tuesday Night

My Dear Doctor —

You must not publish just now these testimonials of Drs Christison & Alison. They are not good enough.

In applying for new certificates at home or abroad have a list of your papers printed on thin paper inclosed [*sic*], & perhaps also a specimen of your certificates—one or two of the very strongest.

Yours in haste  
JY Simpson

P.S. I wrote you today from Arniston.

*R. D. Grainger to T. Laycock, 23 August 1855 (A, 63, n 18)*

Highgate  
August 23. 1855

Dear Sir —

The first indication of there being a vacancy in the Chair of Medicine at Edinburgh, I received from your letter. In matters of this importance I always decline taking any part in the election, until I know who are to be the candidates, a point of which at present, I am in entire ignorance.

I remain,  
Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully  
R. D. Grainger

*R. Chambers to T. Laycock, 27 August 1855 (A, 74, n 41)*

Edinburgh,  
Aug. 27/55.

My dear Sir,

In compliance with your request, D<sup>r</sup> Simpson and I have to-day consulted regarding the proposed reprint of your paper on Medical Ethics. We are neither of us very sure if it would do you good, but we think if it is to be done at all, it would be best if you were to get it printed in York, and send it as a thing you had had beside you to the members of T.

*Correspondence*

Council. Thus it would not appear as so strong a bidding for favour. My decided conviction is that the T.C. will, as on former occasions, judge on the strength of testimonials and the reported reputation, as far as the latter reaches them, and that little besides can be of much avail.

Dr S. thinks you have a tolerable chance, but does not relish making active demonstrations in your favour, as it might be unpleasant to other candidates or aspirants, whose friend he is. He appears, however, to have a preference for you.

For myself being unable to come forward as a witness to your attainments, I can only propose to speak of you among such of the men as I know, as a medical writer whom I know to have shown great activity, great ingenuity, and a clear logical mind, and to have consequently attained a high stand in the profession. This I will lose no opportunity of impressing.

With cordial good wishes, and my kind compliments to Mrs Laycock, I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours sincerely,

R. Chambers

Priestley is taking a kind interest in your candidateship.

*W. O. Priestley to T. Laycock, 28 August 1855 (A, 74, n 38)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
Augst 28/55

My dear Doctor,

Your letters have just arrived, and D<sup>r</sup> Simpson begs me to reply to you. In the first place he thinks you should not publish Sharpey's scrap, but write to him for another.

Then the memorial of your colleagues should be addressed to the patrons; he thinks you will hit on the right mode of expressing it. Get in number, as well as in weight as many testimonials as you can. D<sup>r</sup> Bennett numbers somewhere above a hundred. When you have out your list, you can ask an Opinion of your qualifications from any man. D<sup>r</sup> B—got his in this way, here and on the continent.

D<sup>r</sup> S. says separate your contributions from each other more, and use no "Ibid", but repeat the Journal with its date and page.

Perhaps the treatises might be separate from the rest if you have more than the one, so the reviews &c.

Yours very truly,

W<sup>m</sup> O Priestley



*Supplementary Text 1*

*W. O. Priestley to T. Laycock, 29 August 1855 (A, 74, n 39)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
Augst 29/55

My dear Doctor,

I have brought about a consultation between D<sup>r</sup> Simpson and M<sup>r</sup> Chambers yesterday. The recommendation to you is that the review you sent should not be published here, but in York or some other place; and that it should be issued not as though it was a reprint but as if you had had a number of copies lying by you since it was published. This would avoid the appearance of a job, to which the worthy patrons are wide awake, and might do you great service, as being a subject which is open to the comprehension of all. For my own part I am quite clear, that one who anonymously tries to debate the purposes and objects of our profession, deserves all we can do for him, to place him in a position which shall give weight to such teaching.

D<sup>r</sup> Simpson bids me say in reply to yours this m<sup>e</sup> that you must not expect him, as he sees no way of leaving home tomorrow, he is going about but seems not well.

We are looking forward to your address. Nelligan writes this morning that he withdraws from the Contest.

Ever

Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> O Priestley

*W. O. Priestley to T. Laycock, 30 August 1855 (A, 74, n 40)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.  
Edinburgh  
Augs<sup>t</sup> 30/55

My dear Doctor,

I have just seen Mr Watson the bookseller 52 Princes St. and he will take the management of distributing your testimonials in town. He says if you will send him between 50 & 100 he will not only deliver them to the town council, but to any one else who have influence. He is a capital man for the purpose, a great gossip and knows every body in town. I told him you would defray any expenses he might incur.

D<sup>r</sup> Simpson suggests you should leave out the word "papers" in your title page, the four words being more than enough. The word communicated he thinks also indefinite, and the word published or perhaps contributed used instead.

D<sup>r</sup> Simpson says if nothing turns up to prevent him, he will go to York on Saturday night and breakfast with you on Sunday morning.

Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> O Priestley

*Correspondence*

*C. J. Williams to T. Laycock, 3 September 1855 (A, 63, n 19)*

(In Re Chair of Medicine Univ: Edin:)

My dear Sir

As several of the Candidates are not only my friends but meritorious men on whom my good opinion wo<sup>d</sup> tell pretty much alike, I think it better to preserve a friendly neutrality & not give any testimonials at all.

Yrs faithfully  
C J Williams

Wyrock[?] nr Chepstow Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
D<sup>r</sup> Laycock

*R. B. Todd to T. Laycock, 6 September 1855 (A, 63, n 17)*

26 Brook St Grosvenor Sq  
Sept. 6=1855

My dear Sir

Your letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> has only just come into my hands in consequence of my having been out of town.

I think the testimonial system is carried to an undue & absurd extent by the Candidates for Edinburgh Chairs—and it is hard upon men of reputation & position like yourself to be forced into such competition.

I have great pleasure in sending you such a testimonial as I can conscientiously write not having had the pleasure of being personally acquainted with you—and sincerely hope you may find it useful—

I am, my dear sir  
yours truly  
R B Todd

P.S. I have not given a testimonial to any other candidate on this occasion & shall not do so—

*R. Chambers to T. Laycock, 7 September 1855 (A, 75, n 42)*

Roslin, Sep. 7/55.

My dear Sir,

Your letter received. I have been taking quiet opportunities of letting the councillors know of your deservings. To all appearance at present, they are too much beset with considerations and discussions regarding Christison, Bennett, and Wood, to have much

*Supplementary Text 1*

thought about any of the men from a distance, such as yourself. But do not let this vex you. The Edinburgh Town Council decides all their college appointments purely according to the weight of testimonials. No other influence has any avail with them. And, such being the case, if your testimonials be as you describe them, your chance will be very good. Bennett has asked me for my good word with the councillors, and when I converse with them, I state my favourable opinion of his lecturing power, which I happen to be a little acquainted with, but never without at the same time telling what I think of your writing and style of mind.

We shall be glad to see you here. I am, however, to be absent during the week of the B[ritish]. Association at Glasgow. Mrs Chambers is gratified by yours and Mrs Laycock's remembrances, and begs her own in return.

I am not exactly a sceptic about Mr Hay's views; I only don't understand them. He is a first rate fellow, personally, and a very old and loved friend of mine.

Sincerely yours,  
R. Chambers

Dr. Laycock.

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 11 September 1855 (A, 69, n 28)*

Edinburgh 11 Sep<sup>r</sup>

My dearest Annie,

I am glad to say that Christison has given up all pretensions to the chair. I have been busy canvassing and writing. To-morrow a large dinner party. To-day I shall perhaps go into the Country to the villa.

Send or go to Sotheran's and see if he has sent off 100 copies of the "Evidence" & if not see that he does—and that he goes on printing more immediately. The Testimonials are thought to be excellent and the town is to be "deluged" (Simpson says) with them. Send letters by both the 2 o'clock and 10 o'clock posts, as I shall come in the middle of the day to look for them.

Good bye darling—I hope you are better. M<sup>rs</sup> Calvert will call and offer to help you. The Council affair is very good as it is, and will be made good use of here!

Ever your Aff<sup>c</sup>  
T Laycock

Kisses to Georgie & Edmund

Correspondence

T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 12 September 1855 (A, 72, n 34)

Edinburgh 12 Sep

8 o'clock

My dearest Annie,

I am sorry to hear of poor Edmund's being poorly; don't hesitate to send for M<sup>r</sup> Allen, if his breathing is at all short.

I am getting on quite satisfactorily, and have seen nearly all the Councillors. They are all very pleasant and I have long talks with them.

I do have 6 medical Police and 8 smoke nuisance. Send plenty of each to make up 35 of each, that is 29 'Medical Police' and 27 Smoke Nuisance. In the same closet as the 'Med<sup>l</sup> Police' you will find a lot of printed papers entitled "on the methods for obtaining a natural History of Diseases" send 35 of that if there be so many—I think this will all come for less than 21 oz post at 4<sup>d</sup> per pound.

The 100 copies from Sotheran's have arrived.

Look out 2 Copies of the list of Councillors and add at the foot of each the correction of "Councillor Dickson South Andrew St.—Councillor Millar 44 North Bridge" I think these are the names, but there is a corrected list on the square table. They are for the Yorkshireman and Herald when they send for them. ~~Order a copy of the Yorkshire Gazette to be sent to me here by 2 o'clock post on Friday if possible~~

12 o'clock I have just come in and find your second letter. I am glad you have sent for M<sup>r</sup> Allen. The printer must have some more, as you cannot have sent out so many as 150. I saw Rob<sup>l</sup> Chambers this evening and I go to Roslyn on Sunday for the day. I shall be very glad of a rest for I feel fagged. D<sup>r</sup> Simpson is gone to Glasgow. One of the Candidates (D<sup>r</sup> Gairdner) told me this morning what I didn't know till then, that Simpson has given up Bennett, and recommending me to all he can! Of this he has never said one word, but he is evidently keenly anxious for my success. Thank M<sup>r</sup> Allen very much for his kind attention to my note.

I am rather concerned about Edmund. He must have his 1/2 powder every 3 or 4 hours if his breathing continues short, but not to be purged while taking them. It will be useful to put a wet cloth on his chest with Gutta percha muslin over it and bind it down with flannel over all. If Edmund is worse poor little darling, Mr Allen would oblige me by writing. I am glad Georgie is so brisk. Give them both kisses from me and with kisses and love to yourself, dearest

Ever you aff<sup>e</sup>

TL

I have just got an excellent testimonial from Sheffield

Latest news

"Dr Laycock's testimonials have come upon them like a bomb-shell" begins to be "largely talked about" &c &c

Send a copy of my book to me.—There are two or three in the old Cabinet. It will require four Stamps & a 8<sup>d</sup> one. I think there is one in the inkstand place.

TL

*Supplementary Text 1*

*B. Brodie to T. Laycock, 13 September 1855 (A, 62, n 13)*

Broome Betchworth Surrey  
Sep<sup>r</sup> 13 1855

My Dear Sir

I am quite aware how earnestly & successfully you have laboured for the improvement of the sciences belonging to our profession, & I fully estimate your claims on the present occasion. But I have for some time past made it a rule not to interfere in the appointment of Professors in the Northern Universities even by giving testimonials; & in accordance with this rule I have lately declined to give a testimonial to a Gentleman whom I greatly esteem, & who is [...]—the son of my excellent friend M<sup>r</sup> W Wood. You will see that, under those circumstances, it is not in my power to comply with your wishes, which I should have been most happy to have done otherwise.

I hope that if at any time you should come to London you will give me the opportunity of making your personal acquaintance, & I am Dear sir

Yours faithfully  
B C Brodie

Dr Laycock.

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 13 September 1855 (A, 69, n 29)*

Edinburgh 13 Sep<sup>r</sup>

My dearest Wife,

As you say nothing of Edmund in your last, I conclude the darling boy is better again.

I have got the Yorkshireman and testimonials from several men in London—very good ones. I have seen nearly all the councillors and we are all agreed that progress is making and our prospects brightening. But don't by any means expect that I shall get it, as you will suffer the more from disappointment. The other candidates are very busy and have very powerful friends at work. It is quite certain (he has declared himself in writing) that Christison is out of the field. Bennett is the strongest antagonist and after him Gairdner. I am looking in upon the Councillors and having long talks with them. They are an intelligent courteous body of men.

Have you sent copies of "Evidence" to the newspapers? Be sure to do this immediately without a moment's delay.

We want more copies of "Evidence"—Sotheran must send 100 if he has them and print more, I will write to him by post but Rob<sup>t</sup> can go and inquire. A large dinner party to-day. All the candidates except one and others.

With best love and kisses to you and the boys  
ever your aff<sup>e</sup>  
T Laycock

M<sup>r</sup> Sotheran will be sending a parcel of 'Evidences' please send the copies on thin paper with them. I have paid £3 here for postage to France only!

*Correspondence*

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 14 September 1855 (A, 78, n 46)*

52, Queen street  
Edinburgh  
14 Sep<sup>r</sup>

My dearest Wife,

I have still a favourable report to make although nothing all decisive. It appears certain that my testimonials are very much esteemed and physicians and surgeons in Edinburgh quite unknown to me are working for me. I am getting fresh testimonials every day. The dinnerparty was last night—D<sup>r</sup> Wood decamped very soon, disgusted, it is thought with the gaiety of us outsiders. After they were all gone two or three of us friends were with D<sup>r</sup> Simpson in the drawing room, and I said “I like Gairdner better than Wood, and Halliday Douglas better than both” (he is a thorough gentleman) Dr Simpson piped up “and we like you better than all!”—I think some of them are getting sanguine about my success, but I won’t believe in it, fearing the disappointment. I have most kind letters from the strangers to whom I applied for testimonials, and my friends here are so kind and anxious I could have a good cry about it. I think I shall go to Roslyn on Sunday but unfortunately D<sup>r</sup> Priestley’s intended won’t be there, so that it will not be so great an attraction for him. Mr Wills Editor of the Household World is there and his wife and M<sup>rs</sup> Chambers are there.

With kisses to the bairns and yourself.

Your aff<sup>e</sup>

T.L.

*J. Hutchinson to T. Laycock, 17 September 1855 (A, 63, n 20)*

33 Finsbury Circus  
Sept: 17 1855

My dear Sir,

Enclosed is a brief expression of my estimate of your abilities as a Lecturer on Medicine. If you can suggest any alterations in it which may improve what I fear will be its very insignificant value I shall be most happy to make for I can assure you I entertain feelings of most lively gratitude for what I owe to your instructions

Your letter reached me circuitously and with some loss of time but I regret to say that I am not answering it by return. I had sent a few days before its receipt a note of similar nature to a gentleman at M<sup>r</sup> Mattensons[?] who wrote me respecting the matter & at first I thought that this would serve the end. On second thoughts however it seemed better to send a second.

I much hope that the days delay may not inconvenience you and most sincerely wishing you success beg you

to believe me

Yours truly

Jonathan Hutchinson

Dr Laycock

P.S. Please address the testimonial as requisite. I do not know the form.

*Supplementary Text 1*

*J. Lizars to T. Laycock, 20 September 1855 (A, 72, n 31)*

My Dear Sir,

You are gaining ground—but you have not brought forward the testimonials I told you, that you stand in need of—viz, to address a Circular to the Councillors, stating, how long you have lectured on the Practice of Physic at the York School of Medicine; and also shewing your experience in Practice, by the number of cases annually, (and how long) which have come under your care as Physician to the York Dispensary or Hospital.

Wishing you success, I remain

Yours Faithfully

John Lizars

15 S. Charlotte Street  
Thursday 20. September

*W. S. Carmichael to T. Laycock, 20 September 1855 (A, 74, n 35)*

Thursday. 20 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1855

My dear Laycock.

I think all goes well in Your absence. D<sup>r</sup> S. does not think it prudent to publish the Council Testimonial—as the York Herald has done its work already and we think better—

I hear Gairdner is to have another set afloat today.

Simpson is getting keen—and I think is getting disgusted with the notion now getting currency—that he is led blind fold by Syme in this matter. I am gently playing on that string—and it is telling.

Alick will send you a proof of the new set when the types are up.

You must arrange to be here—early next week.

ever yours

W<sup>m</sup>. S. Carmichael

*W. S. Carmichael to T. Laycock, 21 September 1855 (A, 74, n 36)*

21 Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1855  
Friday m<sup>g</sup>

My dear Laycock.

I send you Gairdners last shell. The letter is unique for its modesty, and dictatorial style.

A capital testimonial from Gendrin—at least we suppose it is he—for the writing is not very clear—also one from Davis of Hertford, with full power to alter & amend.

The General practitioners Testimonial is remarkably good. And with General Simpson's power of finishing up, “a la Sharpey” may be improved.

*Correspondence*

According to long D<sup>r</sup> Simpson, the Chair is now likely to be offered to J Bennet???

Do you believe him:

A proof of those set up in type will be sent to you by tonight's post.

In haste

W<sup>m</sup>. S. Carmichael

*J. Y. Simpson to T. Laycock, 22 September 1855 (A, 82, n 56)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>  
Edinburgh  
Saturday  
22 Sepr. 1855

My dear D<sup>r</sup>,

You must be here to breakfast on Monday—as the last struggle in the race has already begun; two or three days earlier than usual. Men are pledging & asking pledges; some not many. But the first days of next week will probably settle it all.

I doubt most of the roundrobins,—that is, I doubt the propriety of publishing them.—As to the one of the Town Council of York—certainly it must not appear,—as it is not one hundredth part so good as the discussion in the Gazette. The others are being put into type—& we will see how they look.

You must prepare a good letter classifying them &c. Regret in it the want of time for American Testimonials—but refer to Meig's as a substitute p. so & so.

Kindest regards to M<sup>rs</sup> L. I hope Edmund keeps well.

Yours always,

J.Y. Simpson

*J. Lizars to T. Laycock, 22 September, 1855 (A, 72, n 33)*

My Dear Sir,

A Member of Council tells me, that there exists a very favourable consideration of your claims—that you will have a good proposer & seconder. But it occurs to me, that a short address to the Councillors, to the effect, that your various medical writings have all been, more or less of a practical ~~nature~~ bearing upon subjects intimately connected with the duties & office of the Chair of Medicine, to which you aspire, and that you have had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with disease, in every form, also of teaching these—so that a Course of Lectures on the Practice of Physic, would be a mere continuation of your pursuits & studies—Such an address issued immediately, ought to strengthen your claims. Wishing you success, I remain

Yours Faithfully

John Lizars

Edinburgh  
15. S. Charlotte Street  
22<sup>n</sup><sup>d</sup> September 1855.



*Supplementary Text 1*

*A. Laycock to T. Laycock, 23 September 1855 [on verso of above] (A, 72, n 32).*

Sep<sup>r</sup>. 23

My dearest Husband.

I send the enclosed wh: I fear will be too late for any use. I showed it to old Gully[?] telling him it was Greek to me. He tried his best, but found it [...] I think—he seemed very sorry not to have had any talk with you but had not come in out of consideration for y<sup>r</sup> being very busy. I hope you had a pleasant journey & got a good sleep. You left yr key wh. Dr P. will have given you. I shall be anxious to hear the progress of affairs—Edin<sup>r</sup> I walked to your “Gran mas” with the paper this m<sup>g</sup>, but the young man declined walking a step home again. I had to carry him all the way—he has been very cross but was better before bedtime & does not cough so much as he did. Will you tell me if Dr Noble come this week & will stay—The ham was not the same exactly but Wilson says as good—best love & ever. I am

Your aff<sup>e</sup> wife Annie

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 25 September 1855 (A, 82, n 57)*

52, Queen S<sup>t</sup>.

Edinburgh

25 Sept 1855

My dearest Annie,

I am getting on extraordinarily well, and if I go on as well as I have done for the last four days I shall have an excellent chance. Some of the Councillors are getting enthusiastic. Indeed one is so bad that way that they stopped me from visiting him yesterday, least he should explode or blow up (Fact!). The German testimonial came just in time for my third and I think last issue. It is very good. Tremendous hot canvassing is going on. The Councillors are beginning to canvass one another, as I am told they always do. Wood is always offered the “wooden” spoon—some say it is between Laycock and Gairdner, others between Laycock and Bennett. This is considered most favourably.

Mr<sup>s</sup> Simpson thanks you for the ham: It is to be reserved (Mrs Simpson says) for the feast which is already arranging! to celebrate my Election. Very sanguine this!

Love and kisses to you and the baby I am

Your ever aff<sup>e</sup>

T.L.

*Correspondence*

*J. Clark to T. Laycock, 26 September 1855 (A, 62, n 15)*

Private

Birk[?] Hall

Sep 26–1855

My dear Sir,

I am really so placed between you and D<sup>r</sup> Bennett, who has also applied to me for a Testimonial, that I must beg you to excuse me, more especially as you have my favourable opinion so totally. I could not give you a Testimonial & refuse D<sup>r</sup> Bennett, nor could I give him one & decline doing the same to you—I look upon you both as highly talented men; you have both laboured hard for many years in your profession & have both contributed to extend our knowledge of Medical Science. Who of the two would make the better teacher of Practical Medicine is what I cannot decide—If I could I would not hesitate to give my slender testimony in favour of the best man.

D<sup>r</sup> Bennett has great advantages over you from his position in the University, and from his powers as a teacher being well known, to those who are to be the judges of the candidates. You must not therefore be over-sanguine when you consider the advantages of your chief opponent.

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly

Ja: Clark

I must add that on looking at your Testimonials, it strikes me that, if you have erred, it has been in getting too many. Two or three are scarcely to be surpassed, and any man might be proud of them.

*J. Forbes to T. Laycock, n.d. [27 September 1855] (A, 59, n 6)*

Dear Laycock,

I consecrate to you my first penwork on my return. Would you were a Scotsman! I do not expect success for you but I pray for it.

Yours always,

J F

*Supplementary Text 1*

*R. Chambers to T. Laycock, 28 September 1855 (A, 82, n 55)*

339 High Street  
Edinburgh, Sep. 28 1855.

My dear Laycock,

I find there is a little [...] arising about the keenness of your canvass, and the concern of known adherents of D<sup>r</sup> S. in it. Perhaps it might be well to cool Carmichael a little. One can easily see how he and Priestley will be looked upon as second selves of S., and anything like interference from the college men has a bad effect.

Yours very sincerely,  
R. Chambers.

*J. Clark to T. Laycock, 29 September 1855 (A, 87, n 67)*

6 Teviot Row  
29 Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1855

Dear Sir

I have taken one step in advance which will prevent me arriving to any farther Conclusion untill the Election.

Please therefore as far as I am concerned to allow matters to remain as they are untill that time.

I am

Dear Sir

Yours respectfully  
John Clark

Dr Laycock

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 29 September 1855 (A, 87, n 69)*

52 Queen St  
Edinburgh

Dearest Wife, Gairdner and H. Douglas are all cleared off—Their friends declare for me. Bennett, Wood, and Laycock are left and each have 11 votes as they stand at present, there being 33 in all. Each one is trying to get a vote from the other, because the one who has only 10 goes out, and the two left are pitted against each other. I have 2 shaky votes, Bennett has 2, and Wood has 3. I may get one from Bennett and two from Wood, and may keep one of my own, in all 4. Bennett and Wood may each get one from me, in all 2. Upon the balance, the chances are favourable to me. One of Bennett's voters has promised to vote for me to keep me in, he voting for Bennett against me, if we are both kept in. I think I shall not be

*Correspondence*

thrown out, therefore, any how, and then at the final poll I shall win or lose by a single vote. If I lose therefore it will be a moral victory, as Bennett's support is that of the Professors and local friends. I have won all mine, by my testimonials and the friends they have got me, and style of canvass. So that I shall lose gracefully The chances are however better than ever, of winning—Invite the Brewsters by all means—Kind regards to [...] Leafe[?]. I shall telegraph the result of Tuesday whatever it may be. With love and kisses to all you.

Your ever aff<sup>c</sup>

T.L.

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 30 September 1855 (A, 87, n 70)*

52, Queen Street  
30 Sept 1855

Dearest Wife,

Up to a late hour last night there was no change. The great difficulty discussed now, is, what is to be done if the three candidates have each the same number of votes. The Provost is against me, and therefore my friends wont hear a word about his having a casting vote.—Indeed it appears probable that he has no power to give a casting vote on any occasion when the votes are equal. Some think the Council ought to vote for the man to go out; others think the voting ought to be adjourned for a fortnight. I rather protest against the latter although some of my friends think it would be good for me. How it will end, no one can tell, but it is thought I have a slightly better chance than any of them, and as I have been gaining ground day by day without any check, it is hoped the impulse will carry me in. I am told that there is a great deal of interest created. The two withdrawn candidates D<sup>f</sup> Halliday Douglas and Gairdner are both my friends and wish me success. They carry with them a great many of their friends so that there is more reason to think I have the honour to be the popular candidate. All agree in saying that my success so far is something wonderful.

4 o' clock P.M. I have just [...] D<sup>f</sup> Guthrie an eminent preacher; in the morning I heard a D<sup>f</sup> Hanna, also very clever. I am off to Viewbank to dinner.

With best love & kisses ever Thine

T.L.

*J. Lizars to T. Laycock, Monday [1 October 1855] (A, 93, n 78)*

My Dear Sir,

I have just seen D<sup>f</sup>. Murray, who says, that he gives his first Vote to D<sup>f</sup> Bennett—On asking for his second vote for you, he replied, “more than likely—very likely—I think D<sup>f</sup>. Laycock will carry it.” He is a cannie Scotsman.

Yours Faithfully

John Lizars.

Monday ½ p. 10 o'clock.

*Supplementary Text 1*

*W. S. Carmichael to T. Laycock, n.d. [1–2 October 1855] (See A, 93, n 82)*

My dear Laycock,

Sir W. J[enner?]. reports Tullis as saying that he wont be dragooned into voting for B. by Christison—and Sir W thinks him loose— Who he may go to is another matter—So Mr[?] Hay–Hill ought to be dealt with, a letter W Paterson to Mr[?] Bryson, who is expected home tonight. What of Woods second votes—for there lies the scent, & Bennett is working hard at them. I am very hopeful of Stephenson—I will come up after I leave Dr Taylors.

Yours ever

W<sup>m</sup> S. Carmichael

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 2 October 1855 [Electric Telegraph Company message] (See A, 97, n 88)*

FROM: Professor Laycock Edinburgh

TO: Mrs Laycock Museum St York

First voting. Bennett ten, Laycock eleven, Wood twelve. Second voting, Wood fifteen Laycock Seventeen. Laycock Elected, home on Thursday.

*T. Laycock [to Supporters], 2 October 1855 [victory circular] (See A, 97, n 89)*

Edinburgh 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1855

My dear Sir,

The Election for the Chair of Medicine is just over and you will I am sure be gratified to learn that I have been elected.

1st Voting: Bennett, 9; Wood, 12; Laycock 12

2nd Voting Laycock 17 Wood 15

With many thanks for your Kind assistance and in great haste I remain

My dear Sir, most truly

Your's

T. Laycock

*A. Laycock to T. Laycock, 2 October 1855 (See A, 97, n 91)*

Oct<sup>r</sup>. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

My Dearest Tom

I really must write my letters upon gilt-edged paper now that I am addressing a profound Professor! & most sincerely my dearest do I congratulate you on your deserved success. Pray may you enjoy its honour and may God Bless the work assigned to you &

*Correspondence*

bless you with it—I almost dreaded to open the Telegraph & sh<sup>n</sup> have done if the boy did not come breathlessly up to the door saying “good news Laycocks won” to Robert who is quite in an excited state in consequence. Your letters (both got this m<sup>e</sup>) made me more nervous than ever it seemed such a real turn[?], & after all Bennett who was expected to win was the lowest & you seemed to have got all his supporters. Pray tell[?] Mast<sup>r</sup> Alex it was just his ingenuity in styling you Prof<sup>r</sup> that made me see what had happened for I read the paper twice thro’ without the least understanding it & then had a good fit of crying by way of relief—I shall be impatient for y<sup>r</sup> letter in the mg. to hear more particulars—The inclosed note came wh: is so like the writer I send it, I wrote that Prof<sup>r</sup> w<sup>d</sup> dine with him if he got home in time. I thought you w<sup>d</sup> like going there. I have had loads of people in hardly believing it & coming to see & all expressing most hearty congratulations mingled with regrets—both the Atkinsons M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> who seemed delighted but depressed likewise I did not seem well. Mr G. Allen had announced it to the pupils who did not know what became of them. John Bonus nearly wrung my hand off—too many more to mention unless I have time after baby supper who is crying his hardest.

Ever believe me dearest

Yr aff<sup>e</sup> wife

A L.

I have written to all you told me.

*T. Laycock to A. Laycock, 3 October 1855 (See A, 97, n 90)*

Edinburgh 3 Oct 1855

Dearest Wife,

I am much disappointed that I have not had a letter from you to say how you are after all your anxiety. I fear Master Georgie will have suffered with his mamma.

I must now tell you about the final struggle. Later on Monday night we arranged matters at the Café Royale to impress Bennett’s friends that his case was hopeless, and if he would persist in going to the vote, to get two of his supporters from him. In the morning they were all busy before seven o’ clock—trying to alter matters and at last Bennett’s friends finding his case was hopeless and also that if they threw me out at the first voting Wood would be sure to win, encouraged the arrangement and two voters being detached from his 11 made me 12 and him only 9, as actually happened at the voting.

A great crowd mustered at the Election which took place at the Council chamber. D<sup>r</sup> Wood had his Champagne in ice, ready to celebrate his victory—I got up in the morning wishing I might not be elected as I dreaded the duties—As every body went off to the election I went to Watson’s the Bookseller’s in Princes Street and looked his prints &c. over. I got sleepy and propping myself on two chairs against a pile of books in his back room fell asleep. The chairs, unhappily, were so hard that I soon awoke, so I strolled out to see the Statuary Gallery not far off and look up and down Princes’ Street, crowded with people. I watched the ball fall (which falls at one o’ clock every day from a staff fixed on a lofty tower on the Carleton Hill) and then strolled into a photographic room to have my

*Supplementary Text 1*

portrait taken for 1/- but they were too busy. I went back to Watson's and waited there until at a little after a quarter-past one he came flying in shouting "Professor Laycock! Professor Laycock!" in a great pant and stretching out his hand to congratulate me. Then D<sup>r</sup> Priestley speedily arrived and we rushed off to the Telegraphic office to send you word. Next we went to Queen Street and D<sup>r</sup> Simpson came to the door and we rushed into each other's arms "cuddling" like two Frenchmen. Simpson could do nothing he was so overjoyed and it ended in the patients being sent away for which I was very sorry.

There was intense anxiety while the voting was going on, and when the leader of the Bennett-men, Mr Rob<sup>t</sup> Grieve shouted out his vote for "Laycock" at the final voting, the people cheered, and they also cheered the final announcement of the members.

In the afternoon I called upon my different supporters and we had no end of hand-shaking and congratulations as you may imagine.

Never has there been such an Election at Edinburgh, for excitement, and never such a victory. I have more people to see and dont think I can leave until tomorrow or Friday night. With Kisses for yourself and [letter cropped here]

Your aff<sup>ce</sup> Husband

T.L.

*G. Combe to T. Laycock, 3 October 1855 (A, 97, n 101)*

45 Melville Street

3<sup>d</sup>. October 1855

My dear Sir,

M<sup>rs</sup>. Combe & I returned from Switzerland after an absence of 10 weeks only a few days ago, & I did not know of your being a candidate and of your being in Edinburgh until yesterday after the Election, when a friend mentioned the result as a piece of news.— Allow me to congratulate you & the University on your success. It has given me great & unexpected pleasure. Edinburgh needs men like you very much, and your election is one of the best signs of intelligence in our Town Council that it could have exhibited.

In 1852 I had an attack of sub-acute inflammation in the lungs, which my Nephew, Dr Cox of Kingston on Thames happily arrested; but it has left congestion of part of the left lobe, which is now chronic, & altho' I have no suffering from it, it has diminished my vital powers very considerably, &, altho' well, I am feeble in digestive, locomotive, & cerebral power, & greatly affected by a low temperature. I mention this to plead my apology for not waiting on you personally, & for adding that if, at your entire convenience, you will come & see me, I shall esteem it as a great kindness. Both M<sup>rs</sup>. Combe & I have a vivid recollection of the pleasure which a visit from you gave us several years ago.

With best wishes for your happiness and success in your new appointment, I remain,

My dear Sir

Yours sincerely

Geo. Combe

Professor Laycock

*Correspondence*

*W. Hamilton to T. Laycock, 6 November 1855 (A, 97, n 100)*

My Dear Sir

I regret it was not in my power to be present yesterday at the meeting of the Senatus Academicus when you were inducted as Professor. I now beg leave to congratulate you on your appointment; and sincerely rejoice that in this instance the Town Council have made so praiseworthy a choice. As I am quite unable to make visits, I hope when you have leisure you will wave [*sic*] ceremony and give me the pleasure of seeing you here. Lady Hamilton intends to take an early opportunity of calling for M<sup>rs</sup>. Laycock.

Believe me my dear Sir

Yours very truly

W. Hamilton

18 G<sup>t</sup> King Street  
6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1855.

*J. Syme to T. Laycock, 2 May 1856 (A, 109, n 128)*

2. Rutland Street  
Edinburgh  
2. May 1856

M<sup>r</sup>. Syme presents his comp<sup>s</sup> to D<sup>r</sup>. Laycock—and begs to inform him that he cannot lecture on Monday at 12 o' clock without the authority of the Senatus Academicus.

*T. Laycock to J. Syme, 2 May 1856 (A, 109, n 129)*

York Place  
2 May 1856

Dear Sir,

Monday was fixed after consultation with the Lord Provost the College Baillie being from home.

The change was made to oblige several of the Patrons and others who had expressed a wish to be present—Very truly yours,

T. Laycock

Jas. Syme Esq:



*Supplementary Text 1*

*R. Christison to F. B. Douglas, 1–4 December 1857 [copy] (A, 101, n 108).*

*1. 2 3 4. 5 Corrections made on Dec<sup>r</sup>. 4 in Conformity with permission of the College Committee*

40 Moray Place

1 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1857.

Dear Sir

I particularly regret I could not remain till the close of the long Conference of the Medical Faculty with the Patrons of the University on Saturday last; as I had been summoned by Telegraph into Fife.

From what occurred after my departure, it is necessary that my testimony be known as to the Transactions in the Medical Faculty *1.* on 27<sup>th</sup> / *xxii<sup>d</sup>* July last. {Annotation: “There was no meeting at all on the 27<sup>th</sup>. It took place on the 22<sup>d</sup>. The 27<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Memorial ordered on that occasion to be presented to the Infirmary Managers”} On these, and not on any prior proceedings, the whole merits of the question, brought before the Patrons by D<sup>r</sup>. Laycock, really depend.

2. I hereby declare, therefore, that I heard Mr Syme read/*state* as the arrangement, acceded to by D<sup>rs</sup>. Bennett & Laycock, for 3. the future teaching of Clinical Medicine, the *substance of the* three short Clauses contained in D<sup>r</sup>. Laycock’s pamphlet, Page 4. 27: *except that M<sup>r</sup>. Syme may not have stated at that time the part of the Arrangement, which related to the Fees, but of which he had informed me personally & previously,* That D<sup>r</sup>. Laycock & D<sup>r</sup> Simpson were both present: that these Gentlemen, as well as the other members of the Faculty, Concurred in the arrangement:- that having been made a unanimous resolution of the Faculty, D<sup>rs</sup> Bennett, Laycock and myself were empowered to prepare and the Dean to transmit, a Memorial on the subject to the Managers of the Royal Infirmary; which was accordingly done.

I hearby further declare, that I received the Memorial and approved it; and that D<sup>r</sup> Bennett, to whom I sent it, told me he had sent it subsequently to D<sup>r</sup> Laycock, who returned it, without any dissent to him.

If I am correctly informed, D<sup>r</sup> Laycock after I left the Conference on Saturday last, denied that he had ever Concurred in the said arrangement. I have simply to express thereupon my great regret, that D<sup>r</sup> Laycock should have allowed no fewer than half a dozen men of ordinary intelligence to misapprehend him so egregiously, that they imagined his opinion to be diametrically the opposite of what it really was. And I declare, that I agreed [*5*] on the 27<sup>th</sup> / *xxii<sup>d</sup>* July to the arrangement, because, among other reasons, I believed that it met with his approval & wishes.

I am

Yours most faithfully  
(Sig<sup>d</sup>) R Christison

F Brown Douglas Esq  
Chairman of College Committee of Town Council  
Dec<sup>r</sup>. 4. 1857.

### Correspondence

I had just finished these Corrections, when I received a note from M<sup>f</sup> Syme saying “If what you said about the Fees referred to those for the separate Course proposed to be established you were quite right, and have nothing to alter but the day of Meeting and the statement being oral.”

I therefore withdraw the correction immediately above, [i.e. 4.] as it appears M<sup>f</sup> Syme had supposed I referred to the arbitration about part Fees

(Sig<sup>d</sup>) R Christison

*J. Lizars to T. Laycock, 30 December 1857 (A, 102, n 110)*

My Dear Sir,

Instead of an impartial Arbiter, you have had a concealed enemy—a snake in the grass—a Nana Sahib—one who cannot exist without quarrelling with some body. In his early career, he quarrelled with the late M<sup>f</sup>. Liston, who was his Preceptor—next with Professor Lizars, who after being vilified in the most unprofessional language, called M<sup>f</sup> Syme to account, when M<sup>f</sup> S. replied, that it was only a little badinage—3<sup>dly</sup> with Mr Fergusson of London, who watched Mr. Syme a whole day with a Horse-whip to chastise him—4<sup>thly</sup> with Prof<sup>f</sup> Simpson about a patient—5<sup>thly</sup> with Prof<sup>f</sup> Miller about a patient, who thus observes, “I make no comment.” &c. see Monthly Medical Journal for May 1851. also my 3<sup>d</sup> Edition of Treatise on Stricture page 117.—6<sup>thly</sup> with the Editor of the Lancet, see same Treatise page 91. This is also published in the Lancet for 15 February 1851.

I have collated the above, to show you, that it is impossible to make Mr Syme acknowledge, that he ever was, ever can be or will be in the wrong.

Yours Faithfully

John Lizars

15 S. Charlotte Street

Wednesday 30. December 1857.

*Letter J. Renton to F. B. Douglas, 17 February 1858 [copy] (A, 101, n 109)*

Copy Letter From D<sup>f</sup>. John Renton to F. B. Douglas Esq<sup>e</sup>, Convener of the College Committee.

5 Eastfield Leith

17<sup>th</sup>=Feb<sup>ry</sup>=1858

Dear Sir

M<sup>f</sup>. Syme, having published in the Medical Times and Gazette the 30<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>ry</sup> last a letter, which he had solicited Professor Christison to write on the subject of the withdrawing of his letter at the meeting of conference between the College Committee and the Medical Faculty, in which letter D<sup>f</sup>. C— attempts to refute the statement I made that his letter was withdrawn, “without any reference to retraction and correction,” I shall therefore feel

*Supplementary Text 1*

obliged to you, as the official organ of the College Committee, to inform me what transpired on the occasion.

Was I not correct in stating that D<sup>f</sup>. C— proposed to withdraw his letter for the purpose of being corrected, and on his explaining what the corrections were, that the committee considered the letter unnecessary, and recommended him altogether to withdraw it, and that you as chairman put it to the committee whether they agreed to permit it to be withdrawn on that ground, and that the Clerk, on the committee's unanimous resolution, delivered the letter into the hands of D<sup>f</sup>. C— who received it, and that the committee deemed the matter as finally settled, and that they should hear no more about the letter, which accordingly was not entered upon the minutes.

As the allegations entertained in D<sup>f</sup>. C—'s letter with respect to D<sup>f</sup>. Laycock were satisfactorily disposed of by the withdrawing of D<sup>f</sup>. C—'s letter, was I not also correct in stating, that the feelings expressed by the members of the committee were strongly in favour of D<sup>f</sup>. L—'s conduct throughout the "untoward" controversy?

The non-insertion in its records of a document submitted for consideration would, if true, be a grave charge against any Public Board, whose character like that of the town-council's of Edinburgh, stands so deservedly high, for its fidelity in transacting all business brought under its cognisance, and for its strict adherence to form, and such an implication is unquestionably conveyed by M<sup>f</sup>. Syme's project to disprove my statement.

I shall be glad to hear from you, several members of your committee having recommended me to address you, as the proper party, on the subject.

I remain very sincerely yours &c.

John Renton

To F. B. Douglas Esq  
Convener of the College Committee

*W. S. Bell to T. Laycock, 9 November 1858 (A, 81, n 53)*

Professor Laycock

Dear Sir, —

Professor Bennett has published a Letter in to-day's "Scotsman" with reference to your election to the Professorial Chair now occupied by you in our University,—on which I beg to make a single observation,

There was nothing remarkable or extraordinary in the fact that Professor Simpson extended his hospitality to an eminent professional Brother,—then a stranger in our City. But Professor Bennett's inference there from,—that Professor Simpson canvassed the Patrons in your favour, is one of suspicion merely. It is not true in point of fact, Professor Simpson attended my family professionally, on repeated occasions; but he neither directly nor indirectly asked my support or opinion of you as a Candidate for the vacant Chair. Professor Bennett was not elected. And he was very much disappointed, a feeling natural enough,—and common to all unsuccessful Candidates. But the Citizens of Edinburgh have neither sympathy nor respect for those other feelings which his want of success have

### Correspondence

called into such prominent and offensive display. Professor Bennett cannot put up with his disappointment like other people. He regards it as a “grievance”; and although several years have passed away, the lapse of time has not softened down its remembrance. It seems to rankle, and gather strength and virulence the older it grows. You,—Professor Simpson,—the Patrons, every body, friend or foe,—is wrong, because you were elected instead of Professor Bennett!

Permit me to add, that with the exception of your very pugnacious and most unreasonable opponent, and his more immediate friends,—your election met the entire approbation of the Medical profession and the public generally, here and elsewhere. And Citizens of Edinburgh continue to regard you as a great acquisition to our University.

I sincerely hope that your own comfort and public usefulness will not, in the slightest degree, be affected by the hostile feelings referred to. And with best wishes Believe me

Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely  
W<sup>m</sup> Bell

Edinburgh, 19 Elder Street  
November 9, 1858.

*J. Renton to J.Y. Simpson, 2 December 1858 [copy] (A, 81, n 54)*

#### Copy

Dr John Renton to D<sup>r</sup>. J. Y. Simpson  
5, Eastfield Leith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Decem<sup>b</sup> 1858

My dear Sir

I have just read D<sup>r</sup> Simson's letter in to-day's Scotsman, which concludes with the following most extraordinary statement: “D<sup>r</sup> J.Y. Simpson said he considered D<sup>r</sup> Bennett far the best candidate notwithstanding which he invited D<sup>r</sup> Laycock from York to oppose him, who, I believe, but for D<sup>r</sup> Simpson, would not have had a single vote”

In this extract D<sup>r</sup> Simson certainly does not affirm, that D<sup>r</sup> Laycock would not have had a single vote, but for your interference for he qualifies his statement by simply saying he believes so. But he is bound to state the grounds of his belief, otherwise he leaves ample verge for inference as to its source. Such a public averment, I take leave to remind him, is contrary to fact, and if left uncontradicted is calculated to mislead the public, and Dr Simson is mistaken if he believes that his ipse dixit cannot be satisfactorily refuted by the supporters of D<sup>r</sup> Laycock.

Throughout the whole canvass, I supported D<sup>r</sup> Laycock without knowing your leanings or opinions, if you had any, in favour of any of the three candidates whose claims were decided by the votes of the town Council. I remember distinctly speaking to Bailies Forrester & Grey and to Councillor F. Richardson, all of them concurred in saying that D<sup>r</sup> Laycock's high testimonials had alone led them to take a favourable consideration of his qualifications, and it is with feelings of pride and gratification I refer to the opinion

*Supplementary Text 1*

expressed by the late Sir W<sup>m</sup> Hamilton on the subject when he said that in the face of the evidence submitted to the Patrons in support of Dr Laycock they had no alternative but to elect him.

From the first I thought D<sup>r</sup> Bennett was far from being a preferable candidate, considering either the course of his studies or the direction of his pursuits, and the reverse of being an eligible one from his limited and special kind of experience; and I can confidently appeal to the profession if the peculiar doctrine he teaches on so vital a point as general bloodletting does not conclusively vindicate my opinion

You are welcome to make what use you think proper of this communicatn. Believe me. Your's sincerely, John Renton—

To Professor Simpson

Copied from a copy supplied by Dr Renton through Mr Lizars.