

Mr Principal Dawson, who is a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh, has been long known to me in both public and private life; and I readily bear my testimony to the energy and efficiency of the one, and to the purity of the other. By his devout Christian character, and his remarkable attainments in science, Dr Dawson has been instrumental in raising the Institution over which he now presides, to a high point of influence and usefulness in this community.

In these days of scientific progress and aim, it must be

of great moment that the Head of a University, such as that of Edinburgh, be a man of the highest taste and acquisition in this branch of learning. It is ~~not~~ superfluous for me to state that Dr Dawson's qualifications as a Naturalist - in the wide sense of this title - are unsurpassed. At a time when the Scriptures and teaching of Christianity are assailed on every hand, most of all from high literary and scientific quarters, it must be deemed vital to the interests of a Christian University that he who is called to preside over it be a devout believer in the Gospel; such a man, preeminently, is Dr. Dawson. In a day

when the simplicity of the Protestant doctrine and ritual, is largely sought to be ~~transplanted~~<sup>suppl</sup> by a verisimilitude of the Romish dogma & forms of worship, a Scotch University, as it seems to me, other things being equal, should secure for its Principal one whose ecclesiastical bias tends to that Presbyterian system which, more than aught else in her history, has made Scotland preeminent amongst the Protestant countries of Christendom; Dr Dawson is a loyal conscientious Presbyterian.

I will only add, that Principal Dawson is distinguished by administrative ability of a very high order.

John H. Russing D.D.

Montreal 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1868 Minister of St. Paul's  
(Chh. of Scotland)

Lectures on  
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