

My dear Sir

In the letter which I ventured
to write to you along with the
copies of my testimonials (and
which I think you will yet discover
among the papers on your Table, as
I most carefully enclosed it with
my own hands) I expressed to you,
in a very few words the sincere delight
which the kindness & amenity of your
manner had on all occasions afforded
me, and the satisfaction which I could
not but feel from knowing that
you thought favorably of my poetry.
I told you that I sent my testimonials
for your inspection, chiefly for the
purpose of showing you that many
of my friends, distinguished for their
talents, acquirements, or genius, were
of opinion that my studies had
been not unsuccessfully directed
to other objects besides Poetry; &
that therefore I held myself free
from the charge of gross presumption

is asking the Chair left vacant by Dr. Brown. When I think of myself & then of Professor Stewart, I shrink into utter insignificance; but on comparing myself with the other Candidates, I feel that there is a certain equality among us all. Professor Stewart have I only once seen - but I yield to no man in admiration of his transcendent powers; and I hope that I am not altogether ignorant of those views which he has opened up into the mysteries of our nature.

I trust that I am a man of too much feeling to make any undue demand on your benignity. I am already your debtor, and a grateful one too. But if you can conscientiously write me a short letter (I am more friendly and flattering than that I have just now received would be) & heaping a favorable opinion of my power

of mind, & of my writings as they are known to you, which I may add to my other Testimonials, you will be imposing upon me a very great obligation, and one for which you will ever find me sincerely grateful.

I have the honor to be

My dear Sir

Yours with the most affectionate admiration & respect

John Wilson

Thursday
May 18th