

Dr. John Ward's Trust.

(continued)

38. Joseph Angus, 1835-1837, Edinburgh. We are fortunate in having nearly all the correspondence concerning this most eminent scholar and it is now printed for the first time.

His minister was the Rev. Richard Pengilly, trained at Bristol, 1803-1807, and pastor at Newcastle, 1807-1845, where, among many other activities, he established the first Sunday School in the town.

Mr. Angus had studied Hebrew "under the guidance of his uncle, his esteemed relative Joseph Harbottle," pastor in Accrington and Classical Teacher at Horton College, Bradford. Another Tutor was Mr. G. T. W. Mortimer, Headmaster of the Newcastle Grammar School; later, Head of the City of London School.

The following is a copy of the letter that Mr. Angus wrote to his minister:—

"Edinboro'. Dec. 22d. 1833.

"My dear Sir,

"On returning from the labours of the day, I duly received your kind letter, to which I take the first opportunity to reply, tho' I cannot but lament the necessity under which I am laid of introducing myself and my concerns, when paper might be applied with subjects so much more interesting to you, and profitable to myself.

"So long as my desire for the work of the Christian Ministry was unconnected with any appearance of selfishness, I was able to express that desire with a boldness which might appear to some little short of Temerity, but when this inclination seems sanctioned and supported by a prospect of pecuniary advantage, I fear lest it should appear to be rather the result of some mercenary motive, than of Prayer and Meditation—I can only appeal to facts for proofs that I am not actuated by any such feelings—

"When Mr. Mortimer first proposed that I should go to Oxford or Cambridge his recommendation was supported by the assurance of a Scholarship, and the probability of a future Fellowship in one of these Universities. A short time ago, finding that

I could no longer continue with him, without giving a tacit consent to comply with his recommendation, and that I could not conscientiously subscribe to the Articles of the English Established Church, I left London, and came hither, not however without much regret, as I had already received many favours from him, and as I was leaving many apparent advantages of a Pecuniary as well as Literary Nature.

“‘I had looked forward’ (says Mr. M.) ‘to your College Career as a source of credit to myself and to you both of credit and emolument . . . I respect your motives and honour the integrity of purpose which has led you to sacrifice worldly interests to a Sense of duty.’ etc. dated Octr. 5. 1833. I hope, then, that this, as well as the Testimony of my own Conscience, clears me from any imputation of secularity or of the hope of pecuniary advantage in this matter—

“I am quite ashamed to use so much egotism in this short Apology, you will however excuse it, when I assure you, that it is not less disgusting to me, than it can possibly be disagreeable to you.

“I must again revert, ‘me invito’, to myself, and state as briefly as possible, the progress I have made in study, which has, (and I acknowledge it with all thankfulness) resulted as much from the advantages of education which I have enjoyed, as from anything else.

“To commence then with Mathematics to which I have ever had a strong inclination. I have read the 6 first books of Euclid, 1st and 2d Parts of Algebra, Conic Sections, Trigonometry, Differential and Integral Calculus, or Fluxions and Fluents; Mechanics—these three last I read with Mr. Hall. Prof. of King’s College; in Greek, I have read 4 first books of Homer’s Iliad: Oration of Aeschines con. Ctesiph. the Oedipus Rex of Sophocles, Oedipus Coloneus of Do: the Hecuba of Euripides; the Septem Con. Thebas of Aeschylus, the Nubes of Aristophanes, and in short the greater part of the ‘Collectanea Majora’ and the 4 Gospels and the Acts in Greek;—

“In Latin I have read 4 Georgics, and 6 first books of Aeneid, 1st Book of Lucretius ‘de Rerum Nat.’ a few Satires of Juvenal, the greater part of Horace, Cicero ‘de Senec. and de Amic.’ Selections from Ovid. Tacitus’ ‘Life of Agricola’, and his ‘Germania’. xxi. xxii. and xxiii. Books of Livy which I am now continuing. To these I may add the general concomitants of History and Geography. The classes in which I am at present engaged are Greek, in which I am reading ‘Demosthenes de Cor. oratio;’ and Potter’s Grecian Antiquities; Latin: ‘Cicero de Natura Deorum;’ and extracts from Martial. Adam’s Roman Antiquities; Livy; and weekly essays on ‘General Grammar’—

“Divinity, I am reading in Dr. Chalmers’ Class the Doctrines of Christianity, for which our text book is Hill’s Lectures—and Edwards on Original Sin and Freedom of the Will :

“In Hebrew which I cannot possibly at present prosecute, I have read about 25 Psalms and nearly the whole of Genesis—Some of these are private studies, as Edwards. To this I may add to the list of Private Studies ‘Dugald Stewart’s Philosophy.’

“I still however think that I can derive most advantage in one of the Scottish Colleges—the opportunities of improvement are so great; had I written a week later, I might in all probability have added a Bible Class which Mr. Innes Junr. and I purpose commencing in the following week.

“I expect too to engage in preaching occasionally, and my present engagements will admit only of occasional exercise in this part: I do, therefore, think that any little disadvantage attending Edinboro’ as far as Public Speaking is concerned is more than recompensed by advantages of another Nature—

“Upon considering the Vanity, the fleeting and transient scenes of life; I do sincerely ‘groan’ for the Time when I shall bid farewell to the *closer* studies of an University; Glad shall I be when I may turn the little knowledge I possess to the advantage of my fellow men, and to the spreading of the ‘glorious Gospel of the Blessed God.’ I forgot to mention that I am now reading with much pleasure Butler’s Analogy: it is an able work, tho’ it merely clears the way for the introduction of Scripture—I often contemplate the noble disinterestedness of the Apostle Paul and the more I consider it the more noble and super-human it appears to be; how he rejoiced in his Tribulation:—One of the most powerful incentives to holiness is his affecting appeal to the Church at Philippi (if I mistake not) ‘I told you often, and now tell you *weeping*, that there are some who walk enemies of the cross of Christ.’ etc. When we consider that this is he who endured so many Tribulations, who gloried in his afflictions, and who looked undauntingly on the apparatus of martyrdom;—yet he wept as a child when he considered the sins of those who were dearer to him even than life—There is really a great Beauty in tracing up words to their original significations; in this operation I derive much pleasure from Tooke’s Purley, which is a most entertaining Work, to any one who takes an interest in his native Language—the Greek too of the New Testament is remarkably expressive, *διάκονος*, Deacon, clearly points out the humility and working disposition of these servants of God, (*δια*, and *κοις*, dust).

“But I am really forgetting myself, thinking I am writing to an equal, you must then excuse this aberration from the subject in question;

"I have not given any direct answer to the queries I received by your letter, I shall however keep them by me, and answer them, if necessary—

"On calling at Mr. Johnson's he kindly offered to allow me to enter a class, composed of the Students of the Secession who meet for reading the Greek Testament at his house—once in a fortnight this kind offer I willingly embraced: I am, my Dear Sir, exceedingly obliged to you for your kindness, and the interest you have taken in my welfare. Please remember me kindly to Mrs. P and Misses P and H.P. . . .

"Believe me your affec Brother in Christ,

J. Angus."

Letter from Newcastle-upon-Tyne Decem. 31st. 1833.

"To Dr. Ward's Trustees.

"Gentlemen,

"A young man, (a member of the Baptist Church, of which the undersigned are the Pastor and Deacons) of the name of Joseph Angus, about 18 years of age, having enjoyed very considerable literary advantages under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Mortimer, late Head Master of the Grammar School of this Town and at present of Brompton, and other Tutors; and who is now at Edinburgh pursuing his studies under Dr. Chalmers and other Professors,—is very desirous of devoting his future life to the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ. His abilities for that work have been tried by us, and many others, who are of opinion that he is likely to be a very interesting and useful Minister. *He is anxiously desirous of continuing his studies at the College of Edinburgh, preparatory to that work.* His father is not able to defray the expenses that would thereby be incurred, and we respectfully apply to you to grant him the benefit of Dr. Ward's foundation.

"It may not be improper to add that his former Tutor (Mr. Mortimer) was exceedingly anxious that when our young friend quitted him at Brompton and his attendance on Mr. Hall, Professor in King's College, he should enter at either Oxford or Cambridge, and strong enducements were presented before him; but *for conscience sake* he declined all this, and chose rather the obscurity and poverty generally the lot of Dissenting Ministers, than the enoluments and honors which were held out as within his reach.

"In order that you may be aware of what progress our young friend has made in Study, we enclose a letter written to his Pastor on the 2nd page of which he states this in reply to an inquiry of the subject.

"We may also refer you to Mr. Gurney, one of your

number, who had opportunity of seeing and hearing Mr. Angus a few weeks since.

“ Requesting to hear from you as soon as possible,

“ We are

“ Gentlemen,

“ Respectfully yrs etc

“ Richard Pengilly, Pastor

“ John L. Angus W. Angus Josh.

“ Kedshaw John Fenwick James

“ Maxwell. Deacons.”

The next letter is from William Innes, of Edinburgh, to W. B. Gurney, Esq.

“ Edin. Jany 8—1834.

“ My dear Sir,

“ I am just favoured with your letter of the 6th and lose no time in replying. Mr. Angus is in a great measure unknown to me. He was introduced to me by Mr. Pingelly (sic!)—But he has joined Mr. Anderson’s church and is boarded with his brother. He (Mr. A.) says he has prayed at some of their prayer meetings with great propriety and like one who felt the influence of divine things.—Respecting the Sabbath School in my chapel my son proposed to try and teach a few children and applied to Mr. Angus to join him in it as a person of more experience in this way than himself. But this School has I think only been in operation two or three weeks and last night Mr. A. was not there.—probably being employed in preaching in the neighbourhood as I understand he wishes to be employed in this way.

“ I regret that I cannot give you more satisfactory information on the subject to which your enquiries relate.—I perfectly agree with you that it is of the utmost importance to have decided evidence of sincere I would say deep personal piety as well as talent in those on whom you bestow the benefit of the trust you mention.—You are probably aware that Mr. A. has a defect in his right hand.—I do not know if it arose from being burnt or some contraction about it.—Let me add that I do not think you should be prejudiced against Mr. A. from seeing him with a glass of Toddy as this is sometimes called for as a cheaper article than wine when it is thought necessary to ask for something for the good of the house as it is called. I was asked to procure a place for Mr. A. to board in and had proposed a house where he was to pay at the rate of £40 a year.—I do not know what he pays at Mr. Andersons. But I suppose it is somewhat near this,—this house suited him better.

“ Mrs. I. is still exceedingly unwell.—But she joins me in

kind Christian regard to you and yours. Remember me particularly to Mr. Joseph to whom I wrote lately.

"I am My Dear Friend

"Yours with much esteem

"William Innes.

"My kind regards to Mr. Steane.

"P.S. In attending to Mr. A.s defect in his right hand I do not suppose it can affect his usefulness at home. It might only be an inconvenience were he to go abroad. I mention it because everything shd be in one's view in deciding between two competing applications."

Letter from J. Angus, Stepney College, to Henry Tritton, Esq. (Undated).

"Sir,

"Possibly you may have heard through the medium of Mr. Gurney that I am now applying for Dr. Ward's Trust to prosecute my studies at one of the Scotch Universities—I have thought it right, therefore, to send you one or two reasons for an immediate application.

"I might first state however that the plan of my attending Edinburgh this session, has received the decided approbation of Mr. Murch, from whom I have received a testimonial.

"I have also received Testimonials from Rev. T. G. Hall, Professor of Mathematics at King's College, London under whom I studied one year: from Rev. G. F. Mortimer Head Master of the Cadogan Grammar School, Brompton, who was my Tutor: also from Dr. Chalmers Professors Pillans and Dunbar, of Edinburgh, under whom I studied one Session (1833-4) previous to my coming to Stepney.

"These Testimonials I have forwarded to the Rev. E. Steane, the Secretary of the Trust:

"Having spent all my life in study, I feel exceedingly anxious to enter on those more important duties to which I hope to make all my acquisitions subservient.

"By receiving the Presentation this session I should save *one year* for ministerial duties, and this I feel of great importance when so many have already been devoted to previous preparation.

"This plan, Mr. Murch approves the more, as it will afford me opportunity of returning to Stepney for six months, after graduating; that I may continue the connexion I may have formed with the Churches of our own Denomination.

"I need scarcely add that I should endeavour to justify an affirmative decision.

"I remain, Sir, "Yours truly

"J. Angus."

COPIES OF TESTIMONIALS.

“Edinburgh, March 20th., 1834.

“These are to certify that Mr. Angus gave regular attendance on the Divinity Hall of Edinburgh for the Session of 1833-4; that he submitted to the ordinary examinations of the Course, and acquitted himself most ably and intelligently under them, and that as far as is known to me his conduct is consistent with his professional views.

“Thomas Chalmers. S.S.T.P.”

“College of Edinburgh: 18 April 1834:

“I hereby certify that Mr. Angus during the course of this session, attended the senior Humanity Class without missing an hour that his conduct was correct and exemplary that he acquitted himself remarkably well in the Public examinations; and, in the different exercises prescribed to be written, exhibited extraordinary proofs of diligence, capacity, and proficiency.

“Mr. A. also read with care several books of Livy as private studies and gained a prize for an able essay.

“J. Pillans.”

“College. Edinburgh 4th April 1834.

“I hereby certify that the bearer Mr. Joseph Angus attended the Third Greek Class regularly during Session 1833-34. that his general conduct was correct, that he prepared very carefully the lessons, and wrote, with success, the exercises prescribed in the Class and that his progress in the study of the Greek Language was such as merited great praise.

George Dunbar

(Professor of Greek)”

“To Joseph Angus

“A Student of great merit in the Third Greek Class this prize was adjudged for a Greek Poem

“by George Dunbar Prof.

“College of Edinburgh. 10th April 1834.”

“Having been informed that Mr. Angus formerly of King’s College London, is a Candidate for an exhibition to the University of Edinburgh I beg leave to offer my Testimony in his favour.

“While attending the Mathematical Class over which I had the honour to preside Mr. Angus was particularly marked for his attention, assiduity, and the rapid progress he made in his studies—His moral character is I believe unimpeachable and his whole conduct and acquirements such as to cause great regret to me that he had left the College—I feel confident that should he

obtain the exhibition which he seeks, his zeal and talents will reward the choice made of him.

"Thomas J. Hall, M.A. late Fellow and Tutor of Magd. Coll. Camb. Professor of Maths. King's Coll. London. Nov. 20th. 1835 : "

Letter from W. H. Murch to "Revd E. Steane."

"Stepney College Novr. 20. 1835.

"My dear Sir

"Mr. Angus will, I presume, give you a copy of the certificates which he presented to our Committee when he applied for admission to Stepney. If Mr. Ward's Trust should deem any testimonial from myself desirable I beg leave to say that Mr. Angus has fully realized the expectations which were formed. His industry has been unremitting and his facility in acquiring and communicating knowledge very far beyond what is usually attained at his age, even with the advantages he has enjoyed.

"His application for your patronage has my cordial approbation, and when he has graduated it will give me great pleasure to receive him again as a Student at Stepney.

"I am, My dear Sir,

"Your's truly.

"W. H. Murch."

APPLICATION FROM JOSEPH ANGUS.

"To the Trustees of Dr. Ward's Trust.

"Gentlemen,

"I beg leave to offer myself as Candidate for the Presentation to the University of Edinburgh, left by Dr. Ward, which, I understand is now vacant.

"Three years ago I entered at King's Coll : London, where I studied Mathematics one year : the following session I studied at Edinburgh and last year I was admitted to Stepney, with the expressed intimation that I would be most probably a successful Candidate for the Trust at the first vacancy.

"The present application has received the decided approbation of Rev. W H Murch, and through him of the Stepney Committee.

"I have received and forwarded, Testimonials from Rev. T. G. Hall, Prof. of Maths. in King's College, London : from Dr. Chalmers, S.S.T.P. in Edinburgh : and from Professors Pillans and Dunbar : whose Classes I attended in Edinburgh.

"I have also received and forwarded a Testimonial from Rev. W H Murch.

"Should I be successful, I should endeavour to justify your decision.

"I remain, Gentlemen,

"Yr. obt. servant

"Joseph Angus

"Stepney Coll :

"Saturday : Nov. 21. 1835.

Letter from G. T. W. Mortimer, Western Gr. School, Brompton—

"London—Nov. 21st. 1835.

"My dear Angus

"It will always give me the very greatest pleasure to bear testimony to the high character which you maintained whilst a pupil of the Newcastle Grammar School and subsequently when living under my roof—I have had at various times some hundreds of students under my charge, and I may truly say that amongst that large number you stand unrivalled for talent, assiduity, unexceptionable moral conduct and high religious principle, and that you inspired both Mrs. Mortimer and myself with a feeling of regard and attachment which will last through life—

"With sincerest wishes for your success in your present endeavours

"Believe me always, most truly yours

"G. T. W. Mortimer."

Letter from W. B. Gurney to Henry Tritton, Esq.

"12th. Nov. 1835."

"My dear Sir,

"On reaching home last night I found a letter from Mr. J. Angus of Stepney College—You will probably recollect that he applied two years ago for the benefit of Dr. Ward's Trust being then a student at Edinburgh—He is a young man of great piety and attainments of the superior order but we negatived his application on the ground of his having passed by our Academies or Colleges and we thought the precedent would be injurious—and I think there was an intimation in the Resolution if not Mr. Steane was desired to convey to him in private that if he chose to proceed in the regular course he could probably after that be successful.

"At the termination of that Session he applied and was received at Stepney and has been from that time very highly esteemed. He has now received an invitation from Dr. Newman's Church at Bow (the Doctor being nearly laid aside by a

paralytic stroke) to preach to them for a month with a view to a final arrangement. He has written to me expressing with great modesty his fear of undertaking such a charge at so early an age and with a little expression and enquiry whether there is a probability of his being successful in his applicn. to Dr. Ward's Trustees at the same time asking my advice—I have written to him saying that I suppose there is no doubt of his success if he applies but referring him to the opinion of his Tutors whether the call of Dr. Newman's Church is such as he ought to listen to as they will know the facts and also be able to judge whether an arrangement could be made which should unite his attaining further advantages with his connection with Dr. Newman. I shall I presume hear from him soon but I have thought it best to inform you of his letter lest we should dispose of the vacancy and should afterwards regret it.

“ With respects to Mrs. Tritton

“ I remain

“ My dear Sir

“ Yours v faithfully

“ W. B. Gurney.”

Another letter from Mr. Gurney to Mr. Tritton, dated
“ 20 Novr. 1835.”

“ My dear Sir,

“ Mr. Angus has applied to me to recommend him for the Trust. He has made up his mind to go thro' his course and graduate and Mr. Murch wishes very much that having done so he shd. then return to Stepney for a year thinking that a theological course at the close will be more important than even now. Under these circumstances Mr. Angus is desirous of saving the present Session which he has ascertained that he should do if he reaches Edinburgh by the 10th or 12th of December. Mr. Steane had at first rather wished that he should close his Session at Stepney and go in October but in consequence of Mr. Murch's opinion that with a young man of his acquirement and talents which are considerable we shd. not be able to keep him the whole term at Edinburgh and then one at Stepney if the matter were postponed he accedes so far as his opinion goes to the permitting him to go at once.

“ I have desired him to transmit his testimonials to Mr. Steane to be laid before the Trustees and you will of course hear from him on the subject but I have thot. it respectful and right to give you this intimation. I am

“ Dear Sir

“ Yours with great respect

“ W. B. Gurney.”

Letter from Jos. Angus to W. B. Gurney, Esq. Denmark Hill, Camberwell.

" Bp. Auckland
" June 17th. 1837.

" My dear Sir,

" On the preceding page I have sent a list of the classes which I attended in Edinburgh—as you requested in my dear Br. T.'s letter. Will you be kind enough to oblige me by remembering me kindly to him and assuring him that it will give me pleasure to execute any commission he may give me—For the last four Sabbs. I have been preaching to a few poor people in this very destitute neighbourhood, not without some hope of usefulness.—Our sufficiency however is of God—After putting off Park St. for two successive months, I had hoped to have been there next sabb. but am so very unwell that it is necessary for me to decline it entirely or at least till Autumn, when I hope ' if God will ' to fulfil my engagement :— or should it be His pleasure that I never enter on so high an office as that of the ministry may I still say—' His will be done '.

" Believe me, My dear Sir,

" With every sentiment of respect

" Yrs. affy.

" Jos. Angus.

Will you be so good as present my kindest regards to Mr. and Mrs. Jamieson.....and to members of your Family."

The list is as follows :—

<i>Session.</i>	<i>Classes.</i>	<i>Prizes.</i>
1833-4.	Senior Latin.	English Essay on "the comparative merits of Analogous and Transpositive Languages."
1833-4.	Greek.	First Prize for Greek Iambics on "Athens, the Eye of Greece."
1833-4.	Divinity.	

WHILE ON DR. WARD'S TRUST.

1835-6.	Logic.	First Prize.
1835-6.	Natural Phil.	Second Prize.
1835-6.	Divinity.	
1836-7.	Senior Mathematics.	First Prize.
1836-7.	Moral Philosophy.	First Prize (Gold Medal).
1836-7.	Belles Lettres.	First Prize (Books).
1836-7.		Students' Prize of 50 Gs. for Essay "on the Influence of the writings of Ld. Bacon."

1836. Chemistry.

To W. B. Gurney Esqr., one of the Trustees of Dr. Ward's Fund.

Mr. Angus "acted from 1838-44 as Secretary of Stepney College, and had thus a large share in the discussion which led to

affiliation with London University. He remained Principal for forty-four years."

Soon after graduating he became the colleague of John Dyer, the second Secretary of the B.M.S., and it was from the Baptist Mission House that Mr. Angus wrote the following letter, in a much larger and more flowing script than was customary with him, as if he felt the joy of doing it:—

"Sept. 21. 1840.

"Gentlemen.

"I beg your acceptance of the enclosed sum of one hundred and Twenty pounds for 'Dr. Ward's Fund' as a small acknowledgment of my obligation to the Trustees during the two years I was favoured with it.

"I have been anxious for some time to make this return and am thankful that circumstances now enable me to do it.

"Trusting that the men you choose may be increasingly 'men of faith and of the Holy Ghost'—

"Believe me

"Yrs resptfy

"Joseph Angus.

"To the Trustees of Dr Ward's Fund."

He also "repaid to Stepney College the expense of his maintenance there." In a Minute of Nov. 1840 the Ward Trustees testified to the "high sense of Christian principle by which he has been actuated."

E. J. TONGUE.

W. T. WHITLEY LECTURESHIP.

The management committee has decided to call the new Baptist Lectureship by the name of the late Dr. W. T. Whitley as a tribute to his memory and in the hope that the lectureship will further the interests which Dr. Whitley had at heart. The first Whitley Lecturer is to be Prof. H. H. Rowley. His subject will be "The Unity of the Bible" and his lectures will probably form a series of six, to be delivered first of all at Regent's Park College, Oxford on Mondays at 5.30 p.m. beginning on 22nd January, 1951. Our readers are invited to be present. Donations to the lectureship fund will be welcomed.