

The Manse,
Crossgates,
Fife,
Scotland.

16th July, 1931.

Dear Professor Barth,

I think you will be interested to learn that I have just been appointed Regius Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Languages in the University of St. Andrews. The call has come as a great surprise to me, as I did not seek the appointment, and I accepted it only after a good deal of hesitation. As you are aware, my chief interests have for the past few years been in Dogmatics but both Welch and Mackintosh (who were very anxious that I should go to St. Andrews) pointed out to me that it was just because of my wider interests in theology that I was being

asked to take up Old Testament work. Welch is conscious of the affinity between his own thought and yours and is anxious that I should share in his attempt to recover for the Old Testament its rightful place in the life of the Church. Mackintosh takes the same line and so also does Professor McFadyen who teaches Old Testament in Trinity College, Glasgow. I wished there had been time to consult you before coming to a decision but I can only hope that you will approve what is now a 'fait accompli'. I shall be involved of course in a great deal of linguistic study but I do feel that there is work to be done in showing students that the Old Testament is not just a text-book of Archaeology and primitive religion.

I shall feel deeply parting with my little congregation in Crossgates and giving up the work of the active ministry for an academic life. I have learned a good deal among the men of life and I would have

preferred a larger experience of parish work. That I have done right in accepting the call to St. Andrews, ^{barrow}, seems to be the universal opinion both of my own congregation and of my friends elsewhere and I only hope that this appointment will give me the opportunity I desire of serving the Church.

With the position which I shall now hold I shall be much more likely to be in Germany again from time to time and I hope that when you return to Scotland you will be able to come and see us in St. Andrews. It will be a real pleasure if you will. I take up my new duties in October.

I was pleased to hear that you approved of McCnachie's book. He is an able writer and has done a great deal to draw attention to your views.

I was extremely sorry to learn that you were ill some time ago and trust that by this time you are fully restored to your usual health. May I say with what extreme interest and appreciation I read your

recent article in *Jur. d. Zeiten* entitled
'Die Not der Evangelischen Kirche'. I
await eagerly the second edition of the
Prolegomena. At the moment I am
reading a very remarkable commentary
on Mark's Gospel ('Jesus according
to St. Mark') by Walter Lowne, the
Rector of the American Church in Rome.
It is after the style of your *Römerbrief*
and strikes me as a most valuable
piece of work. He has been greatly
influenced by Schweitzer's Eschatological
work and also by yourself and
makes acknowledgment of both influences.

Thank you very much for re-
commending Hans Günther to me. I
enjoyed meeting him immensely and
had him over at Crossgates. Curiously
enough his substitute during his
absence in Scotland was Herr Schild
whom I knew well in Münster.

Please give my kindest re-
membrances to your wife. I hope the
family are all well. I have a little
boy of 9 months.

With warmest greetings,
Yours very sincerely,
Norman W. Porteus.