

3, Hermitage Gardens,
Edinburgh, 10,
Scotland.

abgelezt

19.9.

20th June, 1936.

Dear Professor Barth,

I feel I would like to send you belatedly my congratulations on the recent happy anniversary which you have been celebrating and to express once more my sense of the profound debt I owe for what has come to me through your teaching and witness. It has always seemed to me providential that my steps were directed to Münster in 1929. My theological outlook has been different ever since.

I am glad I was given the opportunity of putting something down in writing as an expression of my gratitude. When you read it it may not meet with your approval but at least I think it will strike you as

an attempt to move in the right direction. There are very grave difficulties to be faced in the Old Testament and one has to go slowly. I have not forgotten that you warned me once that I must not overlook the just claims of criticism. Vischer is a little guilty of doing that, valuable as his contributions to Old Testament theology are. I should like to feel that you are not altogether dissatisfied with what I have tried to do, even though you may not feel that I have gone nearly far enough.

You would be distressed to hear of Professor Mackintosh's unexpected death last week. I was one of a party who went to the Outer Hebrides with him three weeks ago to lecture at a Summer School for lay missionaries. He lectured for a week and was in most genial mood. Then came his tragic collapse and death a few days later. We shall miss him sorely in Edinburgh but are feels that it was a fine end to a very good life. I wish you had known him

better. You will be glad, I think, to know that he had a profound admiration for your work and I fancy that no theological writings in these last years interested him more than yours. He was speaking about you weekly the last week of his life. A posthumous volume of lectures will be appearing in which the last chapter is devoted to a study of your theology. One of the last problems which he was pondering was that of the precise distinction you draw between Offenbarung and Wort Gottes.

I hope you and your family are all well. We look forward to seeing you at least next year and you will please remember that should you require it our door will be gladly open.

You will be interested to know that we have now three children. A little boy, Malcolm, arrived three and a half months ago.

I have enjoyed my first year's work in Edinburgh and do not regret the move from St. Andrews. I have many more students, some of them of excellent quality. I am very much struck by the influence you are having among the present theological students. Some of the best men are reading Calvin's *Commentaries*. Some of course are attracted by Fundamentabism and Vital Inspirationism and have to be reminded of the side of things which they are forgetting.

But I must not take up more of your time. My wife joins me in sending our very warm regards,

Yours very sincerely,
Norman W. Porteous.

P.S. I should like you to know that my contribution was translated into German and that I haven't yet seen the translation myself! I do hope it was tolerably well done! No doubt it was. N.W.P.
