

186

City of London School,
Milk Street,
Cheapside, E.C.

5 / 11 / 1872

Dear Dr. Westcott,

I assure you you have quite mis-
-understood my note - I knew perfectly well
that Farrar & others were proceeding, or
had proceeded, regularly to their degree: but
what I meant, when I said that it was
a "matter of course" for Head Masters to
take the D. D. was this; that they take
it, in many cases, not because of theo-
-logical attainments or achievements, but
because it is "expected" that they shall
take it.

This always appeared to me slightly un-
-worthy. Farrar, for example, would not have
taken his D. D., probably, had he remained at
Harrow: but he will take it now: why? His
becoming a Head Master does not make him
a better theologian or a better teacher of theo-
-logy -

And that was what I meant when I
said that I don't think Head Masters can be
of much service to you in this matter. If Moss

or Vandy proceed to a B. D. every one will
say "of course: their position requires
it: it is the tradition of schools." But,
if you can get men like L. Davis
to proceed, then you will indeed
have effected something: then I
should be happy to offer myself
as a candidate. But at present
I don't think I should be doing
the cause of theology any good;
I should be spending money to no
useful purpose; and I should
be acting in a way rather
conventional & therefore to me,
just a little humiliating -

With many thanks for your
kind note.

Yours most truly
Edwin Abbott

I'm writing amid it about 650
typ in one building on a rainy day.
So pray excuse haste -