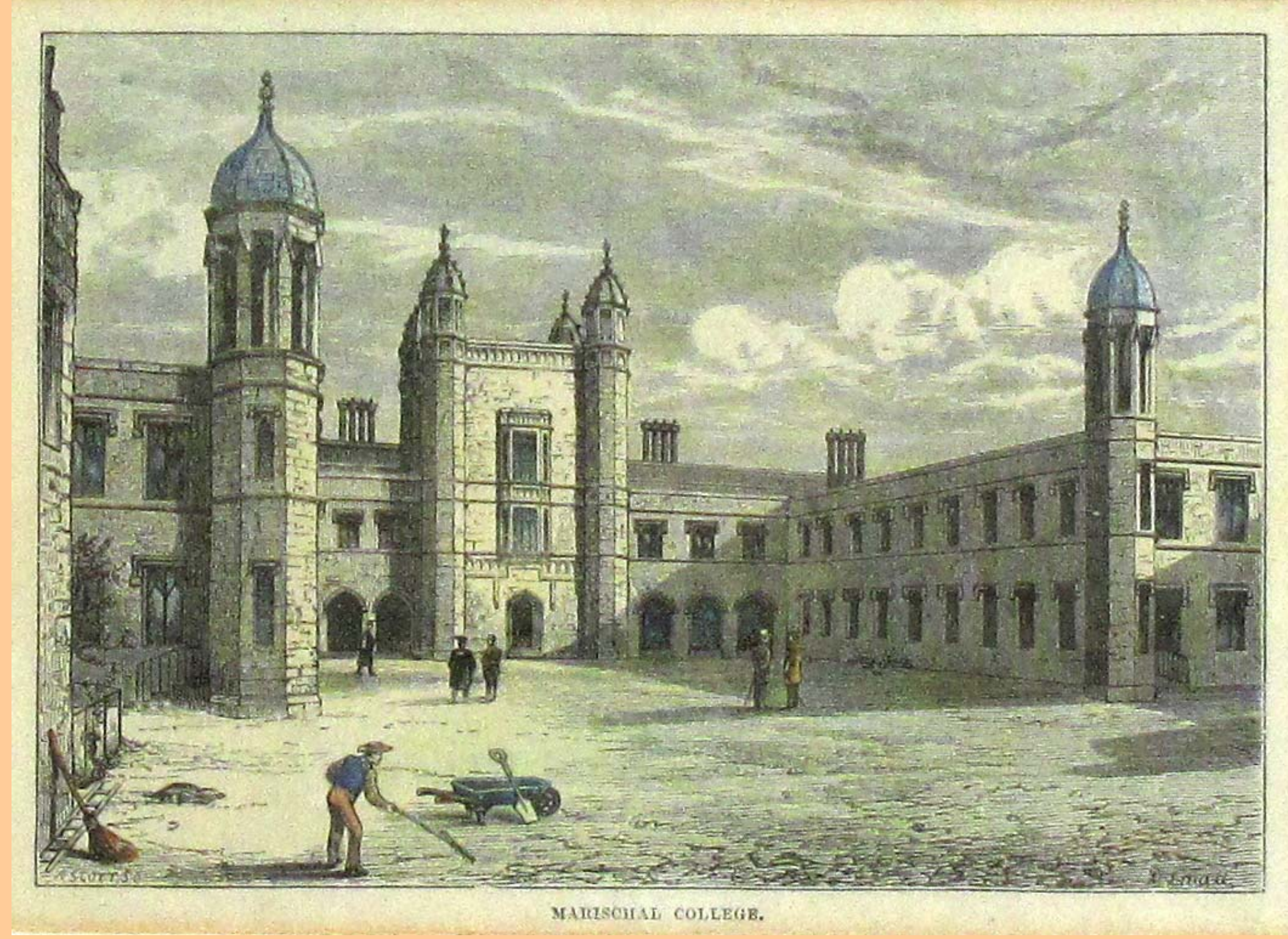


James Clerk Maxwell comes to Aberdeen: 1856-1860

- ❖ Maxwell was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy (i.e. Physics) at Marischal College in 1856
- ❖ His main remit was to teach Mechanics, Dynamics, Optics, Astronomy, etc.
- ❖ The University term ran from early November to Early April



Tallis's map of Aberdeen in the 1850s

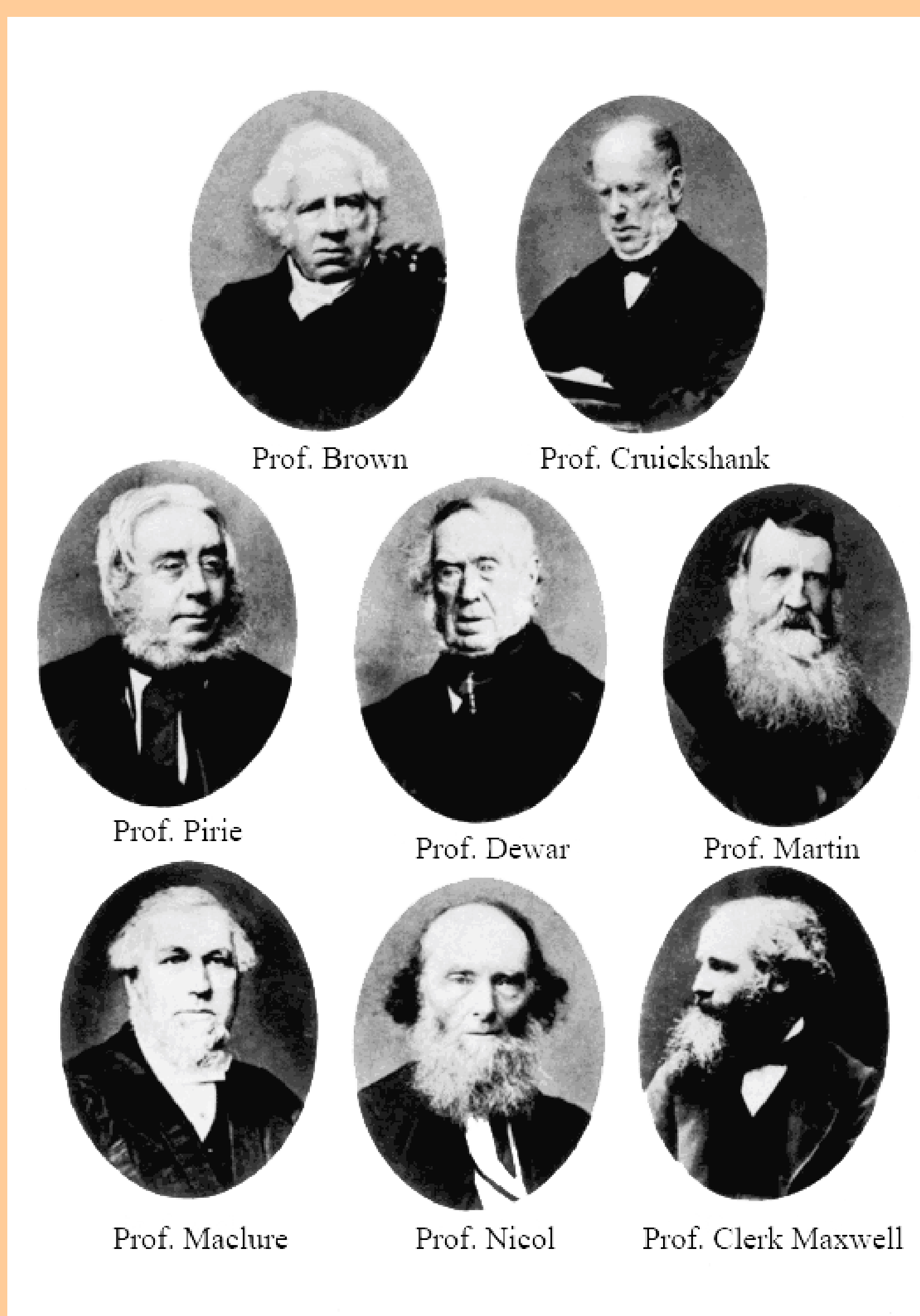
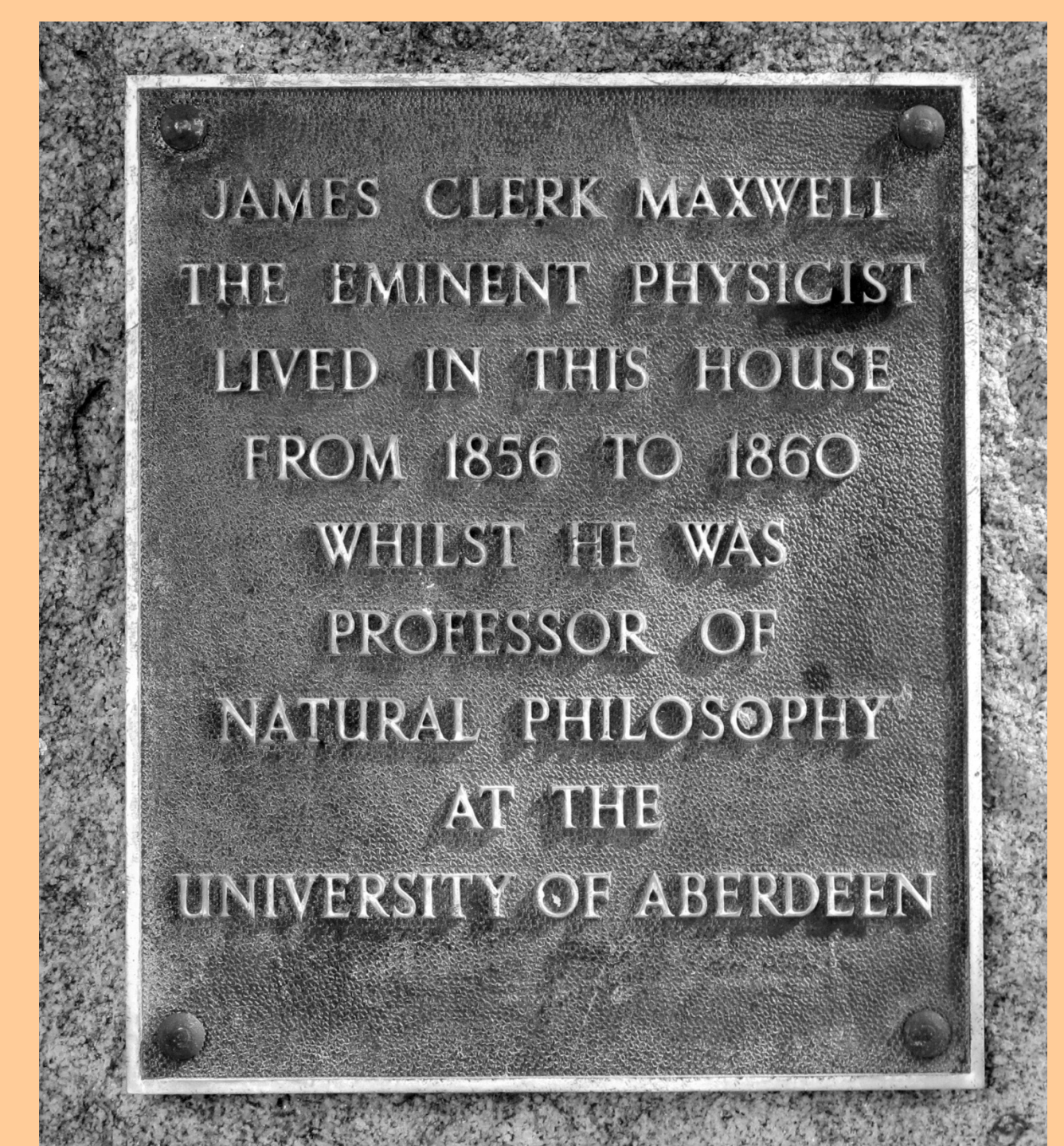


Building where Maxwell had his lodgings

- ❖ Maxwell took lodgings at 129 Union Street
- ❖ For past-times he enjoyed walking, impromptu gymnastics and reading classical literature
- ❖ Upon the death of his father in 1856 he inherited the Glenlair estate where he spent much of his time out of term



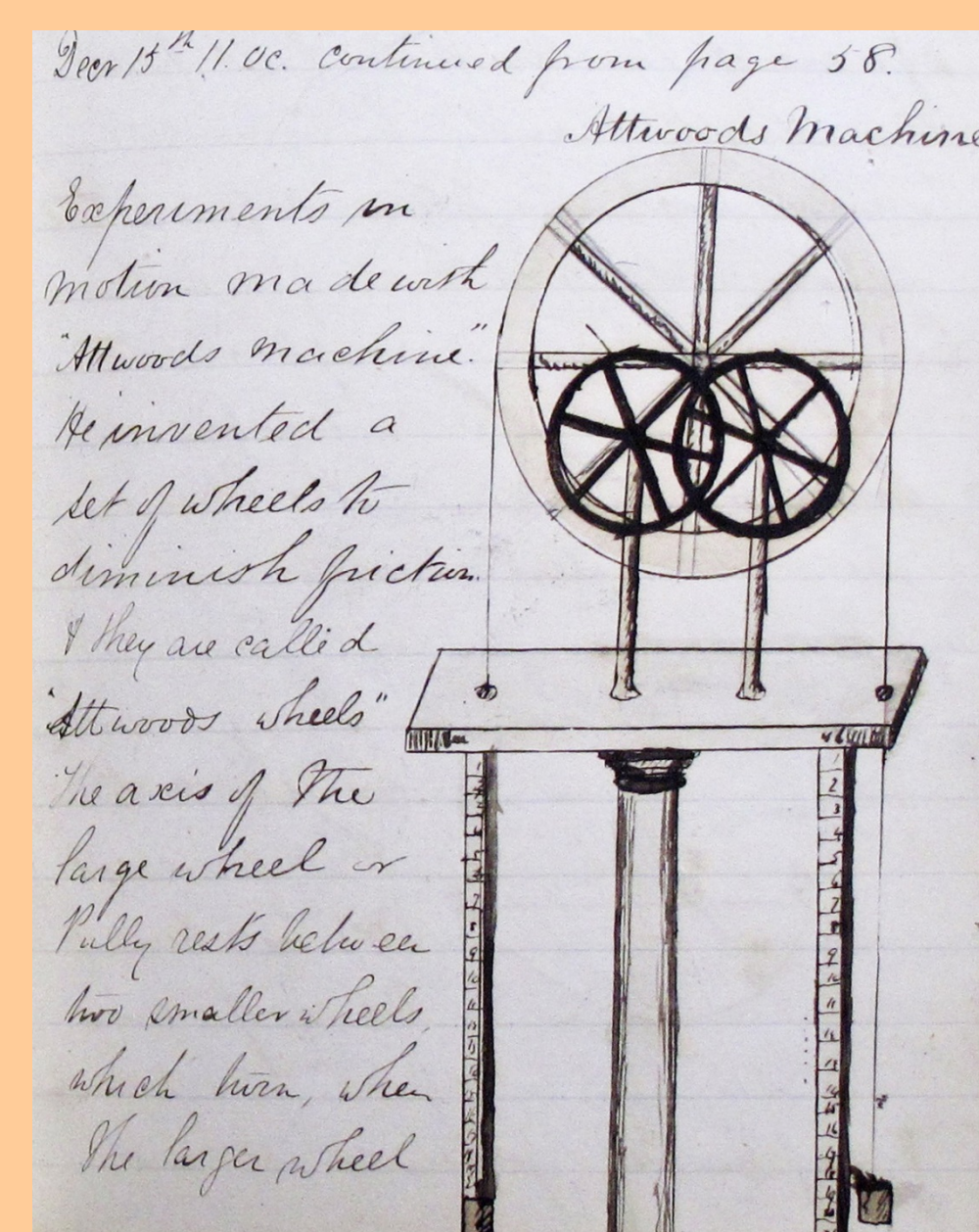
129 Union Street entrance



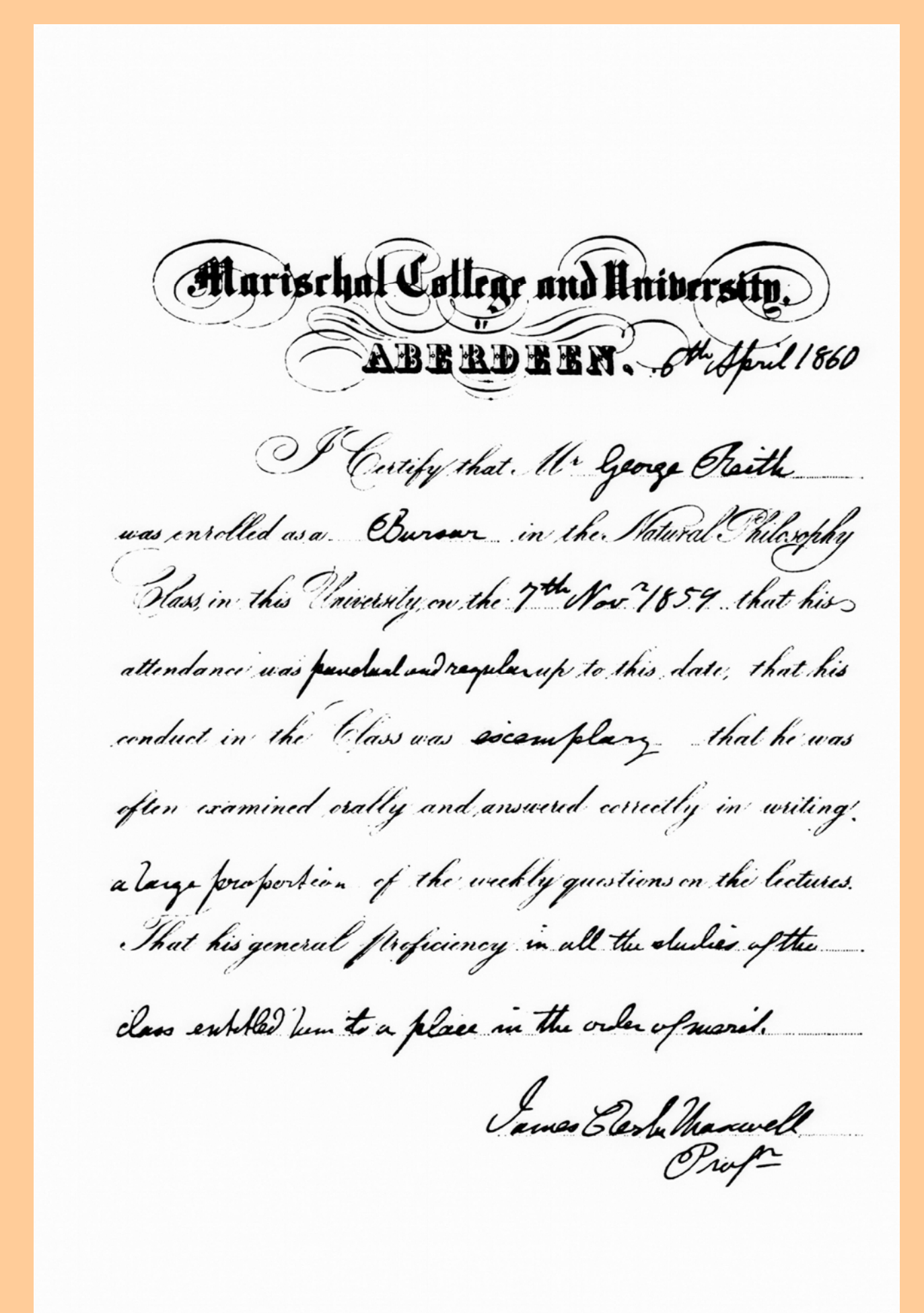
Maxwell's fellow professors at Marischal College



A gown Marischal College student in Maxwell's day



Excerpt from Angus Fraser's notes taken at Maxwell's undergraduate lectures in 1856. Courtesy University of Aberdeen

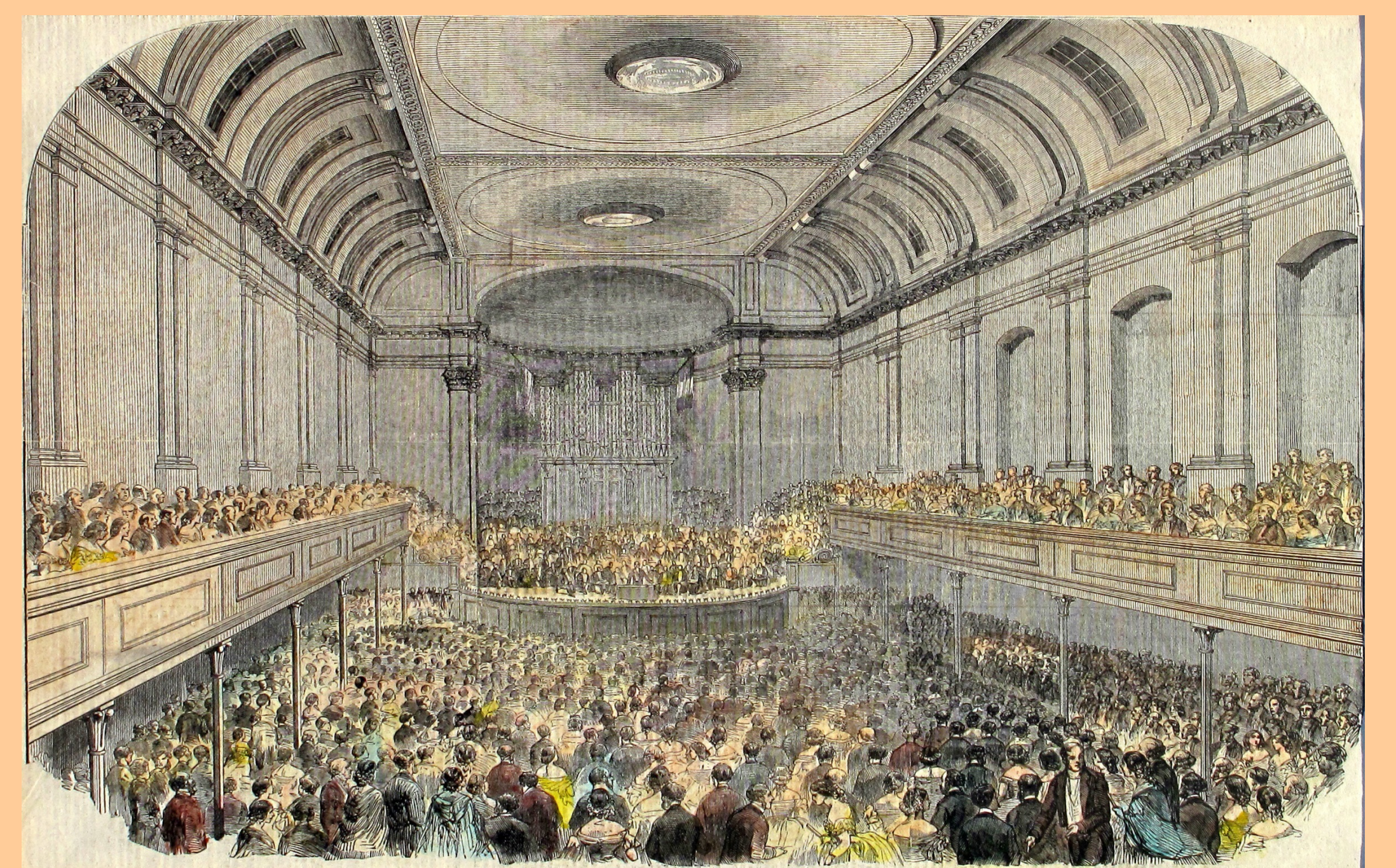


Class certificate issued by Maxwell to the young George Reith future father of Lord John Reith, first BBC Chairman

- ❖ At Aberdeen Maxwell ran an evening class for workers, at the 'Aberdeen School of Science'
- ❖ He worked on fundamental problems in understanding light, the behaviour of gases and astronomy (see other boards)
- ❖ He married the Principal's daughter
- ❖ He left Aberdeen in 1860 when the Royal Commission overseeing the merger of the two Universities in Aberdeen gave the post to his King's College colleague, Professor David Thomson



Mrs Clerk Maxwell, daughter of Marischal College Principal Daniel Dewar. Courtesy James Clerk Maxwell Foundation and Peterhouse College, University of Cambridge



Maxwell was a subscriber to the Music Hall, opened in 1859 as a venue for the great British Association for the Advancement of Science Meeting, picture here, at which he announced a new law of Physics