'A touch of real and rare distinction'*

W. F. REDDAWAY

Forster was a friend of mine during the whole of his four years of residence [at King's], and as teacher and examiner I saw a great deal of his work during the year which he devoted to history. His powers as a writer and thinker are considerable, and there is even a touch of real and rare distinction in some of his literary work.

He twice gained the College essay prize for which all students are obliged to enter, and he contributed to the *Cambridge Review* and other local magazines.¹ His ideal of excellence is a high one and he has both the talents and the leisure to attain it.

Forster is liked by all who know him and would never bring discredit of any kind upon the Extension movement.² He is unfortunately not at all robust, and I cannot tell how far his health would endure the strain of a great number of engagements to lecture.

NOTES

William Fiddian Reddaway (1872–1949), historian, became a Fellow at King's College, Cambridge, in 1897. Forster studied history with him in 1901 while preparing for the Historical Tripos.

1. Forster won College prizes for Declamations and for Latin verse in 1898 and 1899. In 1900–1, he published a number of sketches in the *Cambridge Review* and in the King's magazine, *Basileona*.

2. That is, the University of Cambridge Local Lectures scheme. In November 1902, Forster had applied to give extension lectures on the Republic of Florence and during 1903–10 lectured for Cambridge University's Department of Extra-mural Studies.

* Not previously published. From a letter of 22 November 1902 to Revd D. H. S. Cranage (Board of Extra-mural Studies Papers, Cambridge University Library). Transcription by Nicola Beauman.