

School Board (April 1876-April 1879). At the municipal elections of November 1877, when the Liberal Association began to exercise its influence, and when an indirect attempt was made to get Mr Urquhart elected to the Provostship, Mr Esslemont, though offered a safe seat in either the Second or the Third Ward, chose to contest the Fourth Ward with Mr Jamieson, the retiring Provost. He was unsuccessful, but almost immediately succeeded to the seat in the Third Ward rendered vacant by Mr Urquhart's death, and in the following year (1878) was appointed fifth Baillie, taking rank below four of whom he had been senior in 1874. At the last municipal election, when Mr Jamieson intimated his retirement from the Provostship and the Council, Mr Esslemont, notwithstanding his undoubted claims to the Provostship, offered to waive them in favour of Mr Matthews, the architect, even yielding him his seat for the Third Ward. Mr Matthews, however, after some doubt and hesitation declined to avail himself of the offer. Mr Esslemont was therefore returned unopposed for the Third Ward along with Mr Ogilvie, and was unanimously elected to the Provostship.

Lord Provost Esslemont is and has been naturally connected with a large number of institutions in and about the city. He was one of the active promoters of the Aberdeen Liberal Association, was a vice-president from the first, and succeeded Dr. Webster, M.P., in the presidency, which he, too, has now resigned. A pronounced Dissenter, the Lord Provost is an attached member of the real Voluntary Church, the United Presbyterian; he is one of the elders of the Belmont Street congregation (Rev. Mr Beatt's). The other members of his family have, in a greater or less degree, done some public work in their respective spheres; they are—Alexander Esslemont, wholesale merchant; John E. Esslemont, grocer; and James Esslemont, farmer, Kirktown, Culsalmond.