

Copy

73 Harley St
London W.

7 March 1865
Lynn & Myll

Dear Duke of Argyll.

I have just received a letter from my friend Dr. Dawson Principal of McGill University Montreal. - You may remember that twelve years ago he was a candidate for the Chair of Natural History which principally through your influence the Secretary of State gave to Professor Allman.

If I mistake not you made the personal acquaintance of my friend at a later period & you may since have seen several works of Dawson's, one on the geology of Nova Scotia, another on the Air breathers of the Coal, and a third called Archæia on the Cosmo-

going of the Hebrew Scriptures,
besides important papers published
by the Geol. Society on Carboniferous
& Devonian plants.

On the latter subject he is preparing
a great book work which Dr. Murchison
& I hope to get the Royal Society
here to bear the expense of.

Sir William Logan told me
that he did not know how the
Geol. Survey of Canada could
have got on without Dawson's
help as a palaeontologist.
Dawson on hearing by telegraph
of the death of Sir David Brewster
wrote to University friend in Edinb.
to announce himself as a candidate
for the place of Principal of the

University in which he got his
training -

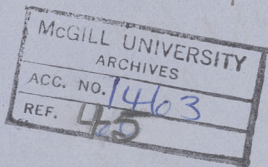
At the same time he sent a letter
to Sir Edmund Head, who had watched
his progress in the successful organ-
ization of the Montreal University
& who as Governor General had en-
couraged and patronized him,
and as I know personally had
as high an opinion of his talents
and fitness for such work as
well as for the details of science
in several branches as I have
myself.

The news of Sir
Edmund's death only reached
Montreal after Dawson had
written to Sir Edmund but not
posted the letter, so he inclosed it

to me, that I might believe it
if the report of his death should
prove erroneous.

Sturson would not gain in a
permanency point of view if he
obtained this place, but he would be
able to publish the scientific histories
which he has accumulated more
advantageously, & enjoy the society
& sympathy of a greater number
of fellow labourers.

He is now in the prime of life, & I
feel sure that he would justify the
choice of the electors if they made
him Principal.



(From Dr C Spill)
to Duke of McGill