

73, Harley St  
London. W.

11. May 1868

My dear Mr. Nichol Home

Your letter makes me regret that you did not happen to be present when Dr. Dowson took an active part in the discussions of the Geological Section of the British Association at Birmingham three years ago. As a speaker capable of influencing his hearers by his persuasive manner and gentlemanlike appearance he made a most favourable impression & would I feel sure occupy a good

position, & if chosen Principal  
a commanding one, in the  
University & in Society in  
Edinburgh.

I only once saw Mrs Dawson  
in a Morning call. She is a  
Scotchwoman & I thought her  
a pleasing person; but I can  
say of his daughter who came  
with him during his last visit  
to England that she was a  
very taking, ladylike & intelligent  
girl.

The death of Sir Edmund Head  
is a serious loss on this occasion  
to Dawson. No one of our Colonial  
Governors ever did so much

in our time in promoting educa-  
-tion in all Departments high &  
low as Sir Edmund Head when  
Governor General & he found in  
Dawson a most efficient ally in  
organizing the schools & Universities  
in New Brunswick & Canada;  
His intimacy with Sir Edmund  
up to the time of his death  
makes me feel confident that  
he would have zealously exerted  
himself on this occasion to obtain  
the Principalship for Dawson as  
one eminently fitted by his  
administrative powers & scientific  
knowledge for <sup>such</sup> a place. As to his  
scholarship, his published writings

Sufficiently attest his literary  
qualifications & you will see by  
his "Archaia" that he has devoted  
much time to the study of Hebrew  
having been always very anxious  
to reconcile his faith in Scripture  
with the new opinions to which  
he was continually led by his  
original investigations. A more  
conscientious man in such  
matters I never knew & although  
his theological opinions have often  
led him to adopt & publish  
views different from my own  
I have always felt that both as  
a theologian & geologist he has  
invariably been most loyal

Leaf to Muline  
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to what he believed to be  
the truth. - He is practiced  
in field-work in many branches  
of paleontology & is well grounded  
in chemistry & would certainly  
attract a large audience in  
geology & mineralogy.

I think he has been Principal  
of McGill University for more  
than ten years & he is now  
also Vice-Chancellor of that  
Institution. By his general  
superintendence & lectures  
he has greatly promoted its  
interests which he could  
not have done had he not

been popular among the  
Professors & Students, & if by  
the weight of his character he  
had not been much looked  
up to by all. Can you  
not write to Mr Davidson?

In a letter to me he spoke  
highly of Davidson's Adminis-  
-trative powers.

I should be glad to send  
you by book-post several of  
his publications, especially  
his "Archaia". You will have  
to remember that it was written  
eight years ago & that we have  
learnt something of the antiquity

of man in the intervals

I should be glad if you would  
show this letter to Sir W. G. Craig  
as I - probably did not touch  
in my note to him on many of  
the points above alluded to -

believe me

ever faithfully yrs

Ch Lyell