

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Mrs. Stuyvesant
Stephens

Ottawa

March 14th

1890.

My dear Dr. Dawson

I have been having
a conversation with
Mr. Meredith who tells
me there really is a
chance of my being
appointed Botanist
in connection with the
Geo. Survey. And if he
had a few words in
my favour from you
he would at once lay

The matter before me
Name. He said one word
from you would have
more weight than many
from other gentlemen
who were already in
the Government employ
Dr Bell told me some
weeks ago that you
had made some reference
to the subject in one
of your speeches. If I had
had a report of it
I might have shown
it to Mr Meredith &
it is having news of
it gives me courage
to write to you on the

subject. And I hope
I have not presumed
too far in saying so.

I am however so anxious
to make a more valuable
collection of plants, than
I have, (or ever will be able
to have without some help
on the matter) - that it makes
me determined to leave no
stone unturned in endeavoring
to gain my object. My
observing need not nec-
essarily be confined to flowers
I might also make sketches
of the localities &c which
might also be of service
to the country - I will

be here for a few days
so that I am desirous to
do as much work as I
can. I have sold a good
many of my books -
now and hope to sell
still more

I know little or nothing
of botany. but if I make
correct drawings and preserve
the plants. any botanist
might arrange them afterwards
I am staying in the
Parliament House with
Mrs Macdonell. The wife
of the Lt at Arnis. Where
any letter addressed to me
would find me. Believe
me ever yours ^{and equally}
James H. Gibbon