

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Nov. 7, 1877

Principal Dawson,

McGill College, Montreal.

My dear Sir, The death of Prof. Orton, the sad news of which has doubtless reached you, leaves an chair of Natural History vacant, & obliges me to cast about for a suitable incumbent. The necessity of filling it promptly is the more urgent because Orton had been absent on leave the entire preceding year, owing to the precarious condition of his health.

You know something of our institution, and can form a just estimate of the combination of qualities that the place requires. A mere specialist will not answer, as the professor has the responsible direction of the entire Department of Nat. History, and hitherto has ^{himself} given all the instructions except those in

Not any. He must be a teacher - not merely
a Scientist or ^a lecturer - and, last not least,
a Christian gentleman. Do you know
the man, who, answering this description,
could be obtained for this place?

Your son, Mr George Dawson, has
been named to me - and my particular
object in writing now, is, to inquire
whether he is open to an appointment,
whether he would, in your opinion, like
to be considered a candidate, ^(if so,) & what
you should judge to be his qualifications
for the position.

The last may seem a somewhat
delicate question to put to a father.
But, as I am confident you could not
be induced to say one word inconsistent
with truth or prejudicial to the
interests of the College, so, on the other
hand, I beg you will let no fatherly
modesty prevent your saying what
truth requires & it concerns us to know,

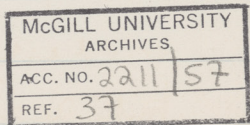
because it is favorable to your Son.

Any help you can afford me, in the way of information, suggestion or advice, will be gratefully appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Pymmes,

Pres. Van. Coll.



Raymond
ad py

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

