

Winnipeg Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> 1898.

Sir William Dawson

Dear Sir

Believing you to be the most eminent representative of Science in Canada, I write this letter to you in hope that it may receive your kind attention.

First of all, can you furnish me with some information as to whether there is anywhere in Canada or elsewhere, a man or a company of men who would think it worth their while to investigate into the merits of what might be presented to him or to them as an important discovery in Science? If there is even one such here or elsewhere I would like to know who he is and where I might find him.

Before giving my reasons for wishing to discover this person, it seems best to me to

explain, that I am a person of most ordinary education, limited means, and delicate health, and with these disadvantages not to mention the care of my household, have endeavored for about ten years to get help and sympathy from some of the educated people in my immediate vicinity, for the purpose of bringing what I believe to be my "discovery" under such a test as shall determine its truth or falsehood.

My chief gain has been the extension of my knowledge concerning what is already known, and even this has been won with difficulty. I would fain possess all the knowledge of Mathematics, Astronomy, Anatomy and what not? that I need to bring my thoughts down to a mundane demonstration, and will acquire what I can but it seems to me that those already in possession of this necessary knowledge could in much shorter time apply the

tests, (with what severity I care not,) and bring the matter to a conclusion.

My discovery I believe to be this "The laws that govern the nervous system:— The law of action and interaction between the afferent and efferent nerves, as it exemplifies itself in health and disease. This established all functional maladies will be thereby explained. This law appears to me to be a universal law discoverable throughout nature working in all things that ever have existed, or do or will exist. The first certain evidence of its truth will be its accordance with what already is certainly known concerning those laws which govern the action of the heavenly bodies in their relation to each other. The last evidence which appears to me to be necessary is its accordance with the structure of the nervous system, and with what is known of the consequences of disease in special nerve tracts, and with

the phenomena of all functional maladies,  
For I claim for my theory this distinction:  
that given - the structure of the nervous system,  
given - this law, gives the seat of Disease;  
all the "symptoms" may be deduced therefrom,  
antecedently to the knowledge that such  
manifestations of disease have ever been  
actually observed: therefore it seems to  
me that if these things (actions) which may be  
shown to be the necessary consequences of  
impediment to the natural fulfilment of the  
law, are the same as those manifestations  
of disease with which we are familiar  
that this in itself is strong evidence in favor  
of the theory even without figures, though  
at the same time I feel certain that accurate  
mathematical proof might be acquired  
or gained as astronomical evidence and  
this would be fairly confirmatory of all that  
should follow therefrom.

Having said this much, I will leave it to you to decide whether it would be worth my while to send you as clearly written out an account of the foundations and evidences of my theory as I am able to set forth; this of course to be settled by your decision as to whether it would be worth your while to read and consider the same. If you think you could spare time for such inspection, I will gladly send you as concise an account of it as I find possible (not an easy task) with the understanding that I shall heartily of it, or at least see it again.

Thanking you for your kind attention if you have succeeded in reading this epistle thus far, and apologizing for the trouble I have already given

I am  
yours most respectfully

Ella Mackay

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