

Toronto 5th March 1839

James Dawson Esq

Pictou
Dear Sir

I was duly favoured with your esteemed letter of the 18th ult^o and am much obliged by its contents - Your acknowledgement of receipt of Power of Attorney to Mr Ross by yourself & kind consent to act in that Capacity I highly estimate - as well as the promptitude with which you have obtained & communicated the requisite information regarding the will of our late lamented Sister Mrs Dawson -

I have written to Mr Blackadar of this date acknowledging his politeness in giving you for transmission to me, the extract of the will. And I enclose here a few lines to Mr George Mackenzie - as this goes under a Members frank I can always send my letters to you in the same way while our Parliament is in session - so you may expect to hear frequently - I know you will excuse the trouble.

The sum left in Mrs Dawson's hands belonging to Mrs Ranken in July 1833 when we were in Pictou was £60 - Sixty pounds although I infer from your letter that I must have

Have inadvertently set it down as £80
when writing you before - without referring
to the authority of my better half - or to Mrs Dawson's
own letter to her of 17th Jan^r 1837 now before me in
which it is acknowledged & stated to be
recorded in her accounts - I am disposed ^{therefore} to
think that it will be found by Mr Primrose in the
accounts with her deceased husband's estate - if not
I must send you an attested claim for it -

Our united & kindest regards to Mrs Dawson
and your young people - and believe me to be
with esteem your obliged & obed^t Servant
Thomas J Ranken

P.S. I do not at present know any proper channel
for getting the small things in Mrs Mackenzie's
charge safely conveyed to this place - If they were
packed in a small deal case & sent through
some of the forwarders by Quebec or Montreal
I suppose it would be best - Can you suggest any
plan? - T. J. Ranken

Enclosed is copy for your information of my
letter to Mr Blackburn

Copy

Toronto 5th March 1839

Henry Blackadar Esq
Attorney at Law
Peter

Dear Sir In a letter which I have just rec^d -
from my friend Mr James Dawson of your place, he has favoured
me with a copy of your very obliging communication to him, in our
behalf of 20th Jan^y - relative to the last will of our late
Sister Mrs Dawson - of which yourself & Mr Hallow are
Executors -

For the information it conveys, the
candid notice of the questions that are likely to be raised,
as well as for the assurance of the very honourable determina-
-tion of the Executors "to guard & protect the legal interests
of the Legates, I have to offer you my sincere thanks

It me to say that Mrs Ranken & myself have
fullest confidence that every thing will be done by you
as it ought for all concerned -

I have myself during my residence in India, had
considerable experience in testamentary matters - as an Executor
as an Agent for Legates & as Arbitrator in matters disputed - and
although I will not presume an opinion on this case - yet I
think it would be difficult to refer - Cattle, implements of farming
furniture & such Choses, as are in a state of constant
upholding, replacing & reproduction, and which must therefore
in the lapse of ^{time} years, be actually of individual property &
requirement - to the same tenure after the lapse of years
as Real Estate - in opposition to Testamentary Intention -

I beg your pardon for digressing - but old habits you see
are apt to recur - and I am a kind of Equity Chief, though no
Lawyer - It must to all parties concerned under the
circumstances be very desirable to avoid litigation - and I

I could hope there would be no objection on any side to
 leave the adjustment to an Amicable Arbitration - Any
 Arrangement between Mr Ritchie of Halifax as Agent for
 the late Mr Denoon's heirs at law - and yourself & also Nathan as
 Ex^{or} under Mrs Denoon's will - Any arrangement of this kind
 would meet our Cordial assent - Mr R. joins in cordial
 regards to Mrs Blackadar & believe me to be with esteem
 your very obed^t Servant
 J. H. Rankin

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James Dawson Esq^r
 Merchant
 Pictou
 Nova Scotia

Letter
 to
 Messrs
 Blackadar
 &
 Messrs
 Rankin
 &
 Nathan
 Halifax
 N. S.
 10th Dec 1844

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Please send the inclosure with the Black book
 after forward