

Copy

Montreal 20 Aug 1855

Dr Sir,

Your two letters, one of the 4<sup>th</sup> the other of the 7<sup>th</sup> Inst. found on my Return on Saturday from a somewhat protracted absence from Home; I am much gratified by your acceptance of the office of Principal of our University, and can assure you that the same feeling is entertained by my Co-leagues. As I mentioned to you in my Telegraphic Dispatch this Morning, we see no objection to your proposed visit to Britain. On your Return it is likely that some time may be required to modify certain ~~arrangements~~ arrangements now existing in the University, and to settle a Course of Study in the Sciences and the Modern Languages for which Pupils may Matriculate without being obliged to Pursue the Course followed by the Faculty of Arts, in order to obtain their degree.

Your Scientific attainments eminently qualify you to carry out this view, and of course the most important Scientific Chair, would be held by you. In addition to this it would be desirable, if you can manage it, that you should deliver Lectures on History, as the Gentleman who now lectures on that Subject is greatly wanted in Mathematics — a branch of Science in which he is well versed; It has been suggested by one of the Governors of the University that your visit to England, might offer you a <sup>able</sup> favorable opportunity for obtaining a degree from one of the Universities there or in Scotland. It would be better to come from abroad than that you should receive it from our own College. From the names attached to your <sup>the Fortification</sup> pamphlet, and the terms in which you are spoken of, I apprehend that no difficulty exists. I know Mr Wm Logan very well,



he is now in Paris, and if you think he could be of any service in carrying out these suggestions I shall have much pleasure in writing him.

With respect to a Library & Museum, I have not much to say, that is encouraging; the Library of the University is too small to discover the Name, we have however, made an appropriation for the purchase of Books, and expect to receive them soon; we have no Museum, but have access to that of the N. History Society, which is a pretty good one, and where also are many scientific works, and we have also access to the collection by Mr Logan the Prof<sup>l</sup> Geologist.

I do not know whether you are acquainted with the History of McGill College. It has fallen into a condition of utter Prostration and Pecuniary Embarrassment. Some three years since the present Governor was appointed, and a New Charter obtained: we have succeeded in placing it in a satisfactory financial state, and have organized and connected with the College a preparatory school, which is of a very high character and contains at present upwards of 200 Pupils.

of the Medical faculty I dare say you may have some knowledge, it has been eminently successful for some years past. In the arts we have as yet but few Pupils, not more than 9 or 10, our slow progress in this department is attributable, in a great degree to the difficulties which surrounded an attempt to build up and restore, to our picture, an educational



Institution which has been signally unsuccessful  
but ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> I think, to the fact that the old University  
Course of Study in which Ancient Classical Liter-  
ature crossed out almost every thing else, is not  
adapted to our State of Society. The Education offered  
is not the Education the People want. I have strong  
hopes that when the Modifications and Changes  
alluded to, in the beginning of my Letter shall  
have been made, we may soon see a steady  
increase of Matriculation.

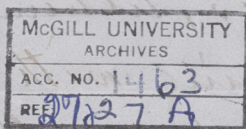
Believe there is nothing in your Letter  
(which I have not now at hand, having sent them  
to the other Governor) which requires any further  
answer. I shall be happy to hear from you at  
any time, and to give you any information you  
may desire relating to the University and  
remain, dear Sir, yours with much Consideration  
Yours being truly

(Signed)

J. Dawson

you return with. — I should like that the moment you  
reach the wharf at Halifax you would repair to the  
Widow's where Mrs D & Family will be in case of any  
unexpected delay. It is more than likely you will be  
with them & your things mine all got safely on  
board, the vessel for Montreal, and she sailed about  
a week since. I am in hopes of hearing of her arriv-  
al before you reach H+ — by Telegraphy

Yours affectionately  
James Dawson





Pictou, 11 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1855

Dr Wm

The within is a true copy of Mr Daps  
Letter to you; we prepared sending a copy in case the ori-  
ginal might be lost - I do not know what you will  
think of this, expecting you to lecture on History,  
but I am of the opinion that you should first have  
meeting there, we has in this, at least for a year on  
two - I leave the Local news to Mr Dawson, and  
have to remark that on Saturday the Day after you sailed  
a heavy Gale from the S & E passed over this Country  
causing several Deaths among the Shipping, on that day  
the Amelia belonging to Mr Rowie was wrecked  
near Halifax and from Larry to say we had about  
\$700 worth in her insurance, including Mr  
Ramsays parcel from Montreal, the vessel is a  
total loss but no one here yet knows what has  
become of the Cargo, I fear however it will be a  
loss. The Packet from Liverpool arrived at Hx  
this morning at 1 o'clock - if you do so when  
you come Mr D. will have little time to make  
calls. I do not recollect any thing just now to  
trouble you with, about the Business - Except  
that we have sold the most of the Paper, Matches Ex-  
cept Candle Cases of which we have plenty - I can  
not tell what you ordered of these as you made  
no Entry of it in the Anchor Book, but by calling  
on Cowan you will see what they have sent, I would  
like a few work Boxes, Bibles, Port Folios, Albums &c  
what they have not sent you might bring with you.  
Philips will send out a parcel by the same Boat

MS B 8 P 8  
1855