

Letter
Mrs McPhail
1 Octr 1859

Pictou 7th Oct 1859

Mr Dawson

Dear Friend,

I received from you by Mr H. J. Fraser two letters accompanied by valuable presents, Anna returns you many thanks for her gannets they both fitted and pleased and the Indian work is handsome much superior to any thing our poor degraded creatures could do, the fault about them is that they are much too expensive.

I am glad to hear by your letter that the Catholic portion of the Indians have so much of civilization, I was not aware that they had made towns I thought

they led the same wand-
ering life that our Pine Woods
do. I knew the Protestant
part of them lived in some
thing like comfort, I am
afraid we will never see
a change in our poor Indian.

I would have sent you
a taste of your old plumbs
but there were none on
the trees this year. Mrs Dawson
had not any for herself even
the black ones are a failure.

There has been a
great deal of sickness
among us this season my
husband is just recovering
from an attack of fever
he is not about yet but
is out of all danger.

Poor Smith Dawson

has also been ill for more
than two months nor is
he able yet to do business
the rest of the family are
well and wish to be remem-
bered to you. Mr Dawson
himself is in his usual
way.

The harvest is over
oats an abundant crop
Wheat an potatoes are considered
failures.

My family join me in
kindest regards to you

I am my
Dear friend
Yours truly
J. M. McNeil