

Copy of a Testimonial from the Pastors of Erskine Church.

I have had the happiness to be acquainted with Dr. Dawson, ever since he came to this city in 1855, to fill the office of Principal of the University of McGill College, and beg to bear testimony to the high estimation in which he is held here, both as a scholar and as a christian.

He has, during all that time, been a member of the congregation of Erskine Church, (of the Canada Presbyterian Church) of which I am Pastor ; and has, in various ways, rendered important service to the cause of christian truth and the interests of general education.

He has been and still continues, at this date, Superintendent of our Sabbath School ; and has conducted Young Men's Bible classes, both in the above congregation and in the city ; by which he has contributed much to the diffusion of sound Scriptural knowledge among the young. He has also rendered important service in connection with the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, the Religious Tract ^{Society} and other Religious and Charitable Institutions in the city.

In these times in which the knowledge of science is so often found associated with scepticism in religion, it is gratifying to find, in Dr. Dawson, an example of one who can possess an extensive knowledge of the works of God, and maintain along with it a profound veneration for the authority of the Bible.

By the consistency of his conduct, the extent of his learning and the weight of his character, he has rendered great service to the cause of Protestant Christianity in this city and Province, and has earned for himself the respect of all who love "our common Lord," of every denomination. If removed from us in the providence of God, all classes will mourn his departure, but will follow him with their kindest wishes for his happiness.

Given at Montreal, this 22nd day of May, 1868.

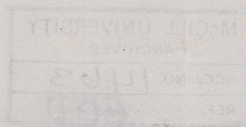
(Signed,) WILLIAM TAYLOR, D.D.
Senior Pastor Erskine Church.

I have much pleasure in adding my testimony to that of Dr. Taylor in every particular he has mentioned, and would only add, that I have been very specially impressed with the earnest and affectionate interest Dr. Dawson has taken, not only in the intellectual and moral, but also the spiritual welfare and progress of *young men*.

J. M. GIBSON, M.A.,
Junior Pastor of Erskine Church.

Montreal, May 22nd, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)



McGILL COLLEGE, Montreal, May 22, 1868.

To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh:

Gentlemen,

In offering myself as a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh, I beg leave to make the following statements with reference to the grounds on which I venture to aspire to an office so important and honourable.

My early academic training was received in the College of Pictou, Nova Scotia, under the Principalship of the Rev. Dr. McCulloch, a graduate of Glasgow. After completing a course of four years in that institution, and spending some time in the study of the Natural History of my native Province, I matriculated in Edinburgh in the Session of 1840-1, and studied during the winter, especially under the late Prof. Jameson. I then returned to Nova Scotia, and renewed my Geological researches, and had the pleasure of accompanying Sir Charles Lyell in his tour in Nova Scotia, in 1842. Returning to Edinburgh in the autumn of 1846, I again entered the University, devoting my time principally to the study of Practical Chemistry. At this time I contributed two papers to the Royal Society of Edinburgh and one to the Wernerian Society. It was not my purpose to enter for a Degree in Arts; but at a subsequent time, and when I had acquired some reputation as a Geologist, the Senatus conferred on me the Honorary degree of Master of Arts.

In 1850, I was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, which office I held for three years, and performed the duty of organizing the schools of that colony, under an amended Educational Law. On resigning the office of Superintendent, I was made one of the Commissioners for establishing the Normal School. I afterwards served on the commission appointed by the late Sir Edmund Head to regulate the affairs of the University of New Brunswick, and in 1855 was offered the office which I now hold, viz: that of Principal and Professor of Natural History in the McGill College and University, the oldest and in many respects the most considerable University in Canada. More recently the office of Vice-Chancellor has been added.

During my connection with McGill University, I have had, annually, under my direct tuition, from 60 to 100 students of Arts and Medicine, in the subjects of Geology and Natural History; and some of these have taken honour courses in Geology, qualifying them to enter on field work in the Geological Survey, or to become teachers of the subject. As Principal, I have had the oversight of an institution having twenty-four Professors, besides other teachers, 300 students in Arts, Medicine and Law, and 600 pupils in lower schools, as well as the management of the relations of affiliated Colleges with the University. A part of my duty as Principal has consisted in the organization and management of the Provincial Protestant Normal School of the Province of Quebec, which has now been in successful operation for ten years.

During my incumbency of the office of Principal, this University has been most prosperous. Scientific studies have been largely introduced into its course, which in this and other respects may challenge comparison with most of the older Universities. No unpleasant controversy has arisen in connection with the changes introduced, and the University has grown in public estimation and support. In my class lectures, though burdened with an excessive amount of work, I have been able to secure the attention of my students and in many cases to kindle their enthusiasm.

I hold the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from this University, and am a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, of the Geological Society of London, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston; a Foreign Corresponding Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society; a Member of the American Philosophical Society; an Honorary Member of the Natural History Society of Boston, and a Corresponding

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Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and of several other societies. I have also been several times elected President of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and now hold that position.

Among my contributions to the Literature of Natural Science, may be mentioned twenty-five papers published in the proceedings of the Geological Society of London; a work entitled "Acadian Geology," on the Geology of the Eastern Provinces of British North America, a second and enlarged edition of which, extending to nearly 700 pages, is now in the press of Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, and will shortly be published in London, by Messrs. Macmillan; a work entitled "Archaia, or studies of the Cosmogony and Natural History of the Hebrew Scriptures," besides several Educational and Scientific works of a more local nature, and numerous contributions to the Canadian Naturalist and other periodicals. All of these have been favourably received by the public.

I am, at present, 47 years of age. I am a member of the Canada Presbyterian Church, (Union of Free and U. P. Churches). My position in Canada is one of much influence and consideration, and places me in official and social relations with the most eminent and agreeable persons, and I enjoy an adequate salary. My reasons for desiring the office now vacant, are: (1.) The prospect of a wider field of educational and scientific usefulness, in connection with the enjoyment of a larger amount of congenial scientific society. (2.) The better opportunities which I would possess for working out to completion the original investigations which I have commenced here; along with greater facilities for publication, and for personally bringing the results of my labours under the notice of the scientific world.

If elected, it will be my earnest effort to promote the usefulness and prosperity of the University in all its departments; but more especially to stimulate its progress in the direction of Scientific studies. I shall be prepared at any time, and without any stipulation as to emolument, to enter upon the duties of a chair of Geology and Mineralogy, (should such chair be created in addition to the present chair of Natural History); and, besides ordinary lectures, to carry on the studies of honour students in practical and special classes. But while thus basing my claims in great part on my qualifications as a teacher of Geology and the allied sciences, and on the importance of the science-teaching which I personally represent, I fully appreciate the value of Classical and Mathematical Scholarship, and of the other branches of learning cultivated in the University, and the necessity of maintaining these, as well as the importance of cherishing the eminent professional schools for which Edinburgh has so long been celebrated; and I trust that my experience in this country, under circumstances in which much more varied duties and responsibilities devolve on a Principal than is usual in Great Britain, will contribute to my fitness for the work which may be required of me in a University so extensive in the scope of its operations as that of Edinburgh.

In evidence of my personal character and standing in Canada, I have attached to this application, copies of testimonials from several persons of eminent position in this country. I believe I might add to the number of these almost indefinitely: but have contented myself with a few from those whose judgment should have the greatest weight.

On the subject of my standing as a Geologist, I may refer to Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., F.R.S.; Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., F.R.S.; Prof. Ramsay, F.R.S.; Prof. Phillips, F.R.S., of Oxford; Sir W. E. Logan, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, as personal friends and competent judges. Several of these gentlemen inform me that they have addressed to the Curators, or some of them, letters in my behalf, but which I cannot attach to this application, not having copies of them. I may also refer to the notices of my labours contained in the works of the two first-mentioned geologists, and in those of Prof. Dana, of Yale College. In Edinburgh I am personally well known to Prof. Balfour and to Prof. Kelland, as well as to many other gentlemen connected with Science and Education; and may refer to D. Davidson, Esq., of the Bank of Scotland, formerly one of the Governors of this University, as being well acquainted with my work and character in Canada.

I have the honour to be.

Your obedient servant,

J. Dawson

Copy of a Testimonial from the Honourable Charles D. Day, LL.D., Chancellor of McGill University.

As Chancellor of the University of McGill College and President of the Board of Governors, I have much pleasure in expressing my sentiments, with respect to Dr. Dawson's connection with it, as Vice-Chancellor, Principal and Professor. Dr. Dawson was appointed Principal in 1855, upon the recommendation of the late Sir Edmund Head, before the organization of the University was completed under the new charter. His services in aid of that work were very valuable, and the earnestness, tact and administrative ability applied by him in the management of the Institution since, under great difficulties, cannot be acknowledged in too favourable terms. His administration has been eminently successful, and, with his powers as lecturer and his judicious and happy mode of conveying instruction, has been a chief means of bringing the University into its present condition of prosperity and usefulness. In the foregoing opinion, I am confident that the Governors, and indeed all who are connected with the University, fully concur.

Of Dr. Dawson's attainments and reputation as a man of Science, I need say nothing: his talents and labours have not been confined exclusively to the duties of his situation, but have been freely bestowed for the benefit of society. He enjoys the respect to which his high qualities of head and heart entitle him, and exercises a very strong and wide-spread influence in the country. His departure will be universally regarded as a great loss, not only to the University, but to the whole community in which he lives, and he will carry with him the good wishes of all who know him, for his continued success and happiness.

(Signed,) CHARLES D. DAY,
*Chancellor, and President of the Board of Governors,
McGill University.*

Montreal, May 6th, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Edinburgh.)

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Copy of a Testimonial from the Right Honourable Viscount Monck, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.

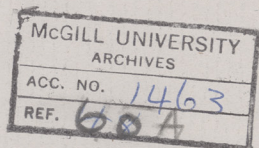
I have very great pleasure in expressing the high opinion I have formed of the personal character and acquirements of Dr. Dawson.

As official visitor of the University of McGill College, I have had some opportunity of becoming aware of the beneficial effect, which the manner in which he performed the duties of Principal has had upon the interests of the Institution ; and I may add, that I have never heard any person connected with the University, who did not speak in high terms of Dr. Dawson.

(Signed,) MONCK.

Ottawa, May 15th, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)



*Copy of a Testimonial from the Honourable P. J. O. Chauveau, LL.D., Secretary of the Province of Quebec, and
Minister of Public Instruction.*

I have great pleasure in testifying to the great ability displayed and the unparalleled success obtained by Dr. Dawson, as Principal of the McGill University and Normal School.

Through the incessant efforts of Dr. Dawson, the McGill University has acquired, in a few years, a degree of efficiency and a position in the country which the most sanguine of its friends could hardly have anticipated. It has always been to me a matter of surprise, that Dr. Dawson could have achieved so much as Principal of the University, while so actively engaged in scientific researches, and while giving so much attention to every matter connected with the general progress of education, science and literature ; and even taking into account his very remarkable talents and natural gifts, the amount of labour which must have been performed by him since I have known him, and have watched his career in this country, is wonderful.

(Signed,) PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU,

*Secretary of the Province of Quebec and Minister of Public Instruction,
late Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.*

Ottawa, 17th May, 1868.

The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.

