

Confidential
Copy returned to Principal Jameson

MCGILL COLLEGE, Montreal, May 22, 1868.

~~To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh:~~

Gentlemen,

Ben Oct 1820

~~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.~~

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Statute of that
Province*

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

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.

was published
in 1888

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 usually the case 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,

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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.)

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

(Signed,) PIERRE J. O. CHARVEAU,

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

(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.

Copy of a Testimonial from the Venerable Archdeacon Leach, M.A., LL. D., Dean of the Faculty of Arts of McGill College.

The fact of my having been associated with Dr. Dawson for a number of years in University work, will perhaps excuse my venturing to convey to those interested in the selection of a Principal for the University of Edinburgh, the estimation in which that gentleman's services are held here in Montreal, by those who have had the best opportunities of observing them.

The Faculty of Arts in the University of McGill College may be said to have been *created* by Dr. Dawson. I ascribe it to his personal influence in this community that the necessary funds were secured for the requisite endowments and the completion of the College buildings. I desire to remark emphatically the singular ability that he has evinced for University organization. He has completed a system that works better, and better fulfils the object of a University, than any other I have any knowledge of. Through all his difficult course of action he has secured the respect of persons of all religious denominations, and the friendly regard of all, I believe, with whom he has been connected. With the other Professors of the University he has worked with perfect harmony. I am not acquainted with the *present* state of the University of Edinburgh; I beg leave, however, to say that if its internal arrangements are susceptible of any improvement, Dr. Dawson's thorough knowledge of University work in all its forms, his experience and assiduity, his politeness and the confidence in his integrity and disinterestedness that he invariably inspires, point him out, as the one above all others that I know or expect to know, qualified to carry into effect improvements likely to be permanently beneficial and to promote the efficiency of the University.

WILLIAM T. LEACH,

Archdeacon of Montreal, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, McGill College.

Montreal, May 22d, 1868.

Copy of a Testimonial from G. W. Campbell, M.A., M.D., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, McGill College.

My dear Sir,

In the name and on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, I have great pleasure to testify to the pleasant and friendly character of your relation with the Faculty in your capacity as Principal of the University. Your advice has always been given in the most delicate and agreeable manner, and your very able labors in the chair of Botany and Zoology have been one of the chief means of raising the Faculty of Medicine to its present prosperous condition. While wishing you on your own account a more important position and a more extensive sphere of usefulness, I have only to express the regret of my colleagues and myself that there should be a prospect of our University losing a Head who has done so much to elevate its educational character and extend its usefulness.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. CAMPBELL, A.M., M.D.
L. R. C. S. Ed. and Dean of Faculty of Medicine.

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

Copy of a Testimonial from the Most Revd. the Metropolitan of Canada.

My dear Dr. Dawson,

Great as certainly will be the loss to Canada and the various institutions in the working of which you have, whilst resident in this city, taken so active an interest, I cannot hesitate for an instant in joining with your other friends in furnishing you with the testimonial to be presented by you as a Candidate for the office of Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

In common with all your fellow-citizens, I can certify to the high character you have maintained, and the estimation in which you are held. But it has been more especially in connection with the "Natural History Society of Montreal" that I have learned to value your talents, your excellent habits of business, and conciliatory spirit. We have been fellow-laborers in that Society now for many years—and if it has emerged from a state of obscurity and confusion—and become a valuable institution among us in Canada, and acquired a recognised position amongst scientific men both on this Continent and in Europe, I consider it to have been mainly owing to the prominent and very able part you have taken in its transactions. Should you be successful in obtaining the high office you are seeking, I trust you will be as successful in your new and more important sphere of action as you have been amongst us, and that your services will be as duly appreciated as they have been here.

I remain,

My dear Dr. Dawson,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) F. MONTREAL.

Metropolitan of Canada.

Montreal, May 23d, 1868.

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

To the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Copy of a Letter from Rev. Dr. Cook, Minister of St. Andrew's (Church of Scotland), Quebec, and Principal of Morrin College. Addressed to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Quebec, 25th May, 1868.

My Lord Provost,

I have been informed by Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill University, Montreal, that he is a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh.

As the head of a Collegiate Institution, recently established in this city by private munificence, and which is affiliated to McGill University, I have necessarily had frequent intercourse with Dr. Dawson, and ample opportunity to judge both of his general character and his special fitness for discharging the duties of the important office which he now holds; and I cannot express too strongly the impression I have derived from all I have seen of him, of his excellent sense, his sound judgment, his amiable temper, his capacity for the management of business, his zeal in the cause of education in all its branches, and among all classes, and the earnest and enlightened interest which he takes in every work either of common or Christian benevolence. Of his great attainments in Natural Science I have not the presumption to think that my opinion would be of any value. His eminence as a man of science is I believe well known and highly appreciated in Europe and America. It is more in my way to state that his pursuit of science has not diminished his reverence for revelation, and that if called to the Principal's Chair in the University of Edinburgh, he will, like his illustrious predecessor, unite the characters of a Christian and a man of science.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord Provost,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN COOK, D.D.

Minister of St. Andrew's Church, and Principal of Morrin College.

To the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

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 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.)

Copy of a Testimonial from DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., Professor of History and English Literature in University College, Toronto.

To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.

Gentlemen,

I learn that Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill College, Montreal, is proposed as a Candidate for the vacant Principalship of the University of Edinburgh. I have much pleasure in complying with the request for a testimonial on his behalf.

In reference to his scientific attainments, his published works are sufficient evidence. But I may be permitted to bear testimony to his pleasing and attractive gifts as a lecturer, and his success as a teacher of science. I can also speak of him, from personal intercourse, as a man of earnest Christian principle, whose moral influence on the Students under his care has been of the most beneficial character.

I had the honour of being invited to fill the office of Principal of McGill College prior to its acceptance by Dr. Dawson, and had, therefore, very special opportunities of informing myself as to the condition of the College when he entered on his office. It was then in a very depressed condition, consequent on long mismanagement, under inefficient control. Since Dr. D. assumed the duties of Principal, its progress has been great; the highest confidence is reposed in his integrity and administrative judgment; and the esteem in which he is held by all who have to acknowledge his authority, or co-operate with him in the work of education, confirms my belief formed from personal intercourse, that he possesses the happy combination of courtesy and firmness peculiarly needed for such an office. I feel assured that his removal from Montreal would be a source of regret to all who feel an interest in the progress of Education in Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant, -

DANIEL WILSON.

Prof. of Hist. and Eng. Lit., Univ. Coll., Toronto.

Univ. Coll., Toronto, 26th May, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to Adam Black, Esq., Edinburgh.)

Copy of an Address from the Professors of McGill College and University, Montreal.

To J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S. &c. *Principal of McGill College, Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.*

Sir,

We, the undersigned Professors of the University of Montreal, (McGill College,) have learned with regret that, as you have been proposed for the office of Principal in the University of Edinburgh, there is a possibility of your removal from us. We are fully sensible how great will be our loss if this should happen; but we should make a bad return for the great and eminent services you have rendered this University if, through the desire to retain you which we feel, we should even passively resist your promotion to the head of one of the time-honoured Universities of the mother country, by withholding our testimony to the remarkable qualifications which experience has shown you to possess for such an office.

Of your scientific reputation it is unnecessary for us to speak. To administrative ability of the highest order must be attributed the present state of this University, and the high place it holds in the public esteem of Canada. The creation, practically, of the Faculty of Arts, the erection of a large part of the College Buildings, the establishment of new Professorships, of Museums, of a Laboratory for practical Chemistry, of a Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory, the collection of Philosophical Apparatus, these more especially attest your indefatigable activity and zeal for the promotion of its interests. The liberality with which the citizens of Montreal have contributed to these objects, is, we consider, due in no small degree to their appreciation of your exertions, and to the great social influence which you have acquired.

Of no less value than the above acquisitions has been the harmonious action of the component parts of the University which has marked your internal administration of its affairs—action so difficult to maintain amid the conflicting opinions on important points, unavoidable in a young institution. It has not a little contributed to this harmony that, while zealously attending to the duties of your own Professorial Chair, you have at the same time earnestly and ably promoted and advocated the interests of all other departments of learning.

Of your services to Education in general, and of your public position outside of the University, others can testify; we desire here solely to express our sense of those services which we have had the best opportunities of appreciating, and our esteem as Professors for you as Principal.

(Signed by)

VEN. ARCHDEACON LEACH, D. C. L., LL. D.—Vice Principal, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy, and Molson Professor of English Literature.	FREDERICK W. TORRANCE, M.A., B.C.L.—Professor of Roman Law.
HENRY ASPINWALL HOWE, M. A.—Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.	P. R. LAFRENAYE, B.C.L.—Professor of Civil Procedure and Jurisprudence.
HON. J. J. ABBOTT, D.C.L.—Dean of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Commercial Law.	R. G. LAFLAMME, B.C.L.—Professor of Civil Law.
GEORGE W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D.—Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Professor of Surgery.	CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L.—Professor of Meteorology.
WILLIAM FRASER, M. D. F. GLASGOW F.P.&S.—Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.	CHARLES F. A. MARKGRAF, M.A.—Professor of German Language and Literature.
WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, M.D.—Emeritus Professor.	D. C. M'CALLUM, M.D.—Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.
WILLIAM E. SCOTT, M. D.—Professor of Anatomy.	ALEXANDER JOHNSON, LL.D.—Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.
WILLIAM WRIGHT, M.D.—Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.	REV. GEORGE CORNISH, M.A.—Professor of Classical Literature.
ROBERT P. HOWARD, M.D.—Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.	PIERRE J. DAREY, M.A.—Professor of French Language and Literature.
REV. A. DESOLA, LL.D.—Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature.	ROBERT CRAIK, M.D.—Professor of Chemistry.
HON. WILLIAM BADGLEY, D.C.L.—Professor of Public and Criminal Law.	T. STERRY HUNT, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.—Professor of Applied Chemistry.
	EDWARD CARTER, B.C.L.—Associate Professor of Criminal Law.
	JOSEPH M. DRAKE, M.D.—Professor (elect) of Clinical Medicine, (Late Demonstrator of Anatomy.)

May 26th, 1868.

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

Copies of Testimonials from Nova Scotia, given in connection with Candidature for the chair of Natural History in 1854-55.

From the Honourable WILLIAM YOUNG, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural History to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this Province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own Province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors of the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

From SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, Knt., &c., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
2nd January, 1855.

Sir,

The Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, Mr. Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. W. DAWSON, Esq.

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq. has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information.

Mr. Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr. Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr. Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, Chairman of the Railway Board,
late Provincial Secretary.

Act Provincial Secretary

JOSEPH HOWE, Chairman of the Fisheries Board

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Mr. Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style as a lecturer, and respect he still retains.

Mr. Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted, and inclined upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief town of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools, &c.

Mr. Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent extended for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information. John William Dawson, Esq. has been long known to me, and highly

ACC. NO.	1463
REF.	600
MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	

HALLIBAZ, NOVA SCOTIA.

From Mr. Hon. Joseph Howe, Act Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT

You be successful in obtaining it may open for you—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Provinces, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment should demand. Your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education in this Province, I hope your efforts will meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident of your Professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion of your nomination that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for the vacant office of Attorney General of Nova Scotia, Mr. Young, having recommended me of your having

Government House, HALIBAZ, NOVA SCOTIA,

SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, Esq., Act Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

WILLIAM YOUNG,

Memo
Biography
& Testimonials
of Mr. Dawson

favorably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors of the vacant

office. I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with

every member of the Government, whether in office or in opposition, I have been favored in expressing a

distinction by his concluding remarks, and modesty of opinion, and therefore, the confidence of

various engagements he has, even for himself, a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been

found Economy and I live steel, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these

their condition in this Province, having visited the schools of New Brunswick and New York, and reported on

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From the Honorable WILLIAM YOUNG, Attorney General of Nova Scotia
HALIBAZ, December 30, 1854.

Office of Testimonials, from Nova Scotia, given in connection with Candidates for the office of Natural History

in 1854-55.

McGILL COLLEGE, Montreal, May 22, 1868.

To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh:

Gentlemen,

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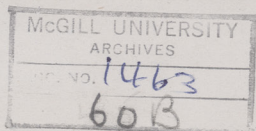
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ACC. NO.	1463
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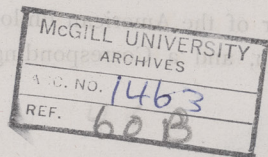
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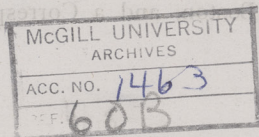
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If elected, it will be my earnest effort to promote the usefulness and prosperity of the University in all its departments; but more especially to stimulate its progress in the direction of Scientific studies. I shall be prepared at any time, and without 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.

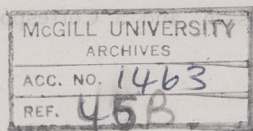
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I have the honour to be.

Your obedient servant,

*John D. Currier
1868*



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.

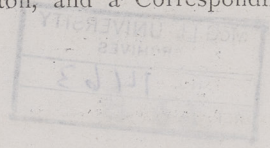
In 1850, I was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, which office I held for three years, and performed the duty of organizing the schools of that colony, under an amended Educational Law. On resigning the office of Superintendent, I was made one of the Commissioners for establishing 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 Québec, which has now been in successful operation for ten years.

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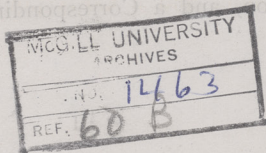
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Your obedient servant,

W. Dawson



Copies of Testimonials from Nova Scotia, given in connection with Candidature for the chair of Natural History in 1854-55.

From the Honourable WILLIAM YOUNG, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural History to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this Province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own Province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors of the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

From SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, Knt., &c., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
2nd January, 1855.

Sir,

The Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, Mr. Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. W. DAWSON. Esq.

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq. has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information.

Mr. Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr. Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr. Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, *Chairman of the Railway Board,*
late Provincial Secretary.

The originals of the testimonials
for Dr Leithers, the Trustees of the
New Zealand, & Dr Campbell
have been sent to
Dr the Rev. & Dr Campbell
Copies will be distributed
9 West Wall
M.D.

Testimonials
John W
Munro

McGILL UNIVERSITY
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