

R. Andrus
Esq.

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO. 2211	33
REF.	32

Musee 4 Beauport Terrace
3^d March 1871.

My Dear Sir:

I have received your note in
connexion with the proposed meeting of the
Natural History Society of Montreal & regret
to say that it will be out of our power to
forward anything of interest in connexion
with the Antiquities of Canada, for the simple
reason, that we have none.

Our Libran & Museum
were at one time both rich in objects of
great interest to the Scholar & Antiquarian,
some of them unique, but fine did its
work completely, even melting Jacques
Cartier's bronze Canon - Our library
and museum are now again of very
great value, but we have nothing antique,
unless you would accept Jemy Tugwell's
definition, who on handing his purse
over to his wife, told her that he had only
kept a new shilling, for "Antickety's sake".

I wish we had
something to send for we would rejoice
in the opportunity to show, how infinitely
superior we are to that small soured
illiberal

3
gorand and vulgar call *Volturnus*, simply *Merula* and *Merula*
Merula name *Merula* to *Merula* —

We have made some very interesting
additions of late to our Museum, having had the good fortune to have
been presented with a splendid specimen of the Great *Albatross* and two
specimens of *Halcyon* — The great *Albatross* measures from tip to tip of
his extended wings a few lines less than eleven feet. I have also
seen the happy addition of *Preventive* from a lady beautiful skin of
the male and female *Partridge* of the Nile, which make our collection
of the *Familiars* complete — We have now the British *Preventive*, the
American Redbreast, the *Canadian Sparrow*, *Sparrow Partridge*, the white
Partridge or *Starling*, the *British Sparrow Partridge*, *Quail*, the *American*
and *California Quail* & when our last donation is shipped we will
have the *Partridge* of the Nile —

I am glad to hear that your family
is well, I have not heard any thing of George for some time

illiberal Coalition of Creatures having
 a body Corporate, known as the History
 Society of Montreal. I have called it small
 souled, but that is a misnomer, it has
 not a soul at all but simply a girzoud -

If there is anything like retribu-
 tive justice in this world, I think your
Catamounts, must be Consuming away by
 insects, though perhaps they may be reserved
 for more speedy destruction by fire - It is
 never however too late to accept punishment
 might be averted if the Society were to
 write a penitent and fraternal letter to
 us, begging us to receive as a loan
 one of the Catamounts and as we are
 possessed of Christian Charity, we might
 be willing to forget and forgive and to
 send you in return, one of our
 Carapoux; or Wolvenines, which are
 not to be purchased for their weight
 in gold, though some of your people
 have been so misled as to suppose
 that they are abundant & dirt cheap, from
 reading reports published by the unlearned
 in the public papers that Wolvenines were
 in Quebec, as plenty as Blackberries,
 from numerous Leop Carous which
 the

time; I hope he continues to be well satisfied with London and to
enjoy good health — I had hoped to have seen you in Montreal
before this, but something has always come in the way to prevent
it — Still, I may be in Montreal before winter is over as it is possible
I may have to go to Ottawa — I have enjoyed better health since the
cold weather set in than I did during the past summer, but
yet have not much to boast of though many say I look well —
Dickson left us last week for a tour to the Lower Province,
and will return to resume his position in Montreal, before the
opening of the Navigation —

With kind regards to Mr. Dawson & the
members of your family, in which all here join

I remain very faithfully

D. Dawson
Montreal

M. J. Dawson