Quebec Grande Allée
6th February 1872

My Dear Doctor Dawson

This afternoon I received your letter of 3rd Inst. and as I have been confined to the house by the storm of snow still prevailing, I thought I could not devote my time to a better purpose than replying to it at once. My convalescence is not so rapid as I could wish, but still as much so as I had right to expect having entered on my sixtieth year the 2nd December last. The rest have made better recoveries Willie feeling well & in great spirits and Rose though not so strong as I could wish to see her is yet tolerably well. Helen after being a week in bed I believe from cold and fatigue is now as usual & Mary and Ida quite well and as they have remained so long without being attacked I have every day increased hope that they have altogether escaped. We have had great trouble but I trust we all know how to submit as we ought, and to feel grateful that all have been spared.

I am glad to learn that you have all been well, I trust you will continue so. We feel much obliged to you for your expressions of sympathy.

Mr Gunn & his little boy collected the shells from the bank of the Ravine through which a brook runs not far from Fort No 3. You sent me I believe $5 for the service.

Montreal it is true was more of a village at the time the account of the visit of the whale was written, but I should have written Hochelaga. I am afraid however if I am to judge by the apparent unwillingness of some of its savans to enter into friendly relations with their brethren at Quebec, I am afraid while the city has increased in material dimensions, its intellectual powers have become more contracted than they were

"twenty years ago." I have come to this conclusion from the following circumstance. In looking over our minutes I find in the Report of Jany 12th 1853, as follows "During the latter half of the year, a friendly intercourse took place between this Society and the Natural History Society of Montreal and a Resolution was passed at one of our meetings recommending that this Society and the Natural History Society of Montreal should agree to interchange any duplicate specimens which they possessed, and otherwise maintain a mutual communication. This was cordially responded to, and a resolution passed accordingly by the Montreal Society, was duly received, as well as other communications from the present President of that Society, Major Lachlan, one of our Corresponding Members."

As we have never got any notice of the abrogation of this treaty, I would now as President of the Quebec Literary & Historical Society, propose to you that we should now make an interchange by way of loan, that you should send us the duplicate Catamount in your collection, and receive from us in the same way our duplicate Gulo.

I see you must have been so busy that you have overlooked the question I put to you. Have you received a copy of Murray's Journal which you expressed a desire to have when it was printed. I sent you a copy but as we got no acknowledgement of its receipt it is possible that, as sometimes happens, it never reached.

With kind regards to Mrs Dawson, yourself and family I remain very faithfully

Wm Jas Anderson

Dr Dawson
cc Wallace

W. Johnston
Sept 1/02