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Prentiss
Queen Hotel
Glasgow 17 Dec. 1872

Dear Dr. Dawson

Mr. Prentiss writes me of your kind interest in my success in dealing with the Pictou properties but reminds me that no extension of time will be granted me beyond the 25th of Jan'y. I have already reminded you that this was not what I was led to expect when I embarked in this enterprise which has cost me so much money & labor & anxiety, but I will rather attempt to show you that it is your interest & that also of the other vendors that they should stand by me if such an extension is necessary, which I hope it will not be. I presume that if you receive a cable message that the money is actually ready to be paid over to you in obtaining the transfer of the titles, that there will be no attempt to undo my labours. I propose to send such a message thro' the Bank of Montreal or some other Bank.

The view I take of my position in this matter is that I am the purchaser, & that if I do not meet the payments when due that you can only dislodge me by entering a suit against me which might drag on for a year or two. I have no desire, God knows, to give, or receive, any trouble of this kind. I merely mention this to show you that the associates in Pictou cannot cancel their bargain with me as easily as they suppose. And now to speak of more agreeable matters. My property is of the most

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satisfactory character so far, but the mode in which I am negotiating takes more time than merely getting up a company, which, as you know, by no means ensures success. Instead I am getting the affair taken up by solid rich men chiefly in the Iron Trade, one of them Jas Reid Stewart of Oswald Street Glasgow has subscribed £10,000 & then are others for £5,000, but they must see their way to an amount sufficient to raise next day 3 Blast Furnaces & money for the Railway, besides the payment to you. In order to make the affair successful, saving to the constant reminder I have rec^d that no money would be allowed me if I was not ready on the 25th of Jan^y. I have agreed to put aside all immediate profit to myself & have executed & handed over the property at cost plus an interest for myself out of profits. I have made every sacrifice. The only sacrifice asked of your friends in Picton is - a little patience. I mention Mr James Reid Stewart's name in order that you may enquire of his position for any of the great hardware firms in Newcastle, without of course hinting at his connection with me.

My progress as I have said is all I could expect in the short time since I rec^d your news reports. But if I do not hear that I am to be dealt with by your friends candidly, - if I do not hear by telegraph or receipt of this letter that they will give me such reasonable

3/ time as may be necessary to complete my letters ¹⁰⁰
I shall proceed by first steamer to Montreal to
visit at least their efforts to dislodge me.
Should I be forced to this, the chances of your
selling your property at all will be very
slender. I give you some reasons for this
assertion.

"Orectures" have been made from various
persons to "buy" your property, which has had
the effect of unsettling the minds of your
friends in Pictou. May I ask whether
these "Orectures" have ever been accompanied
by an offer to pay down any money, or
whether they have ever emanated from
quarters that you know are of undoubted
character & ability to carry out any plan
more advantageous than that which we have
arranged? Are not the prime distributors
Messrs. Giles & Dickson? & who are
they? The latter is working with Mr
Carmichael & he merely derives control
of your property on the plea of being able
to sell it, in order that he may keep it
out of the market until he has placed
Carmichael or W. Giles, with whom he
is also working. But these gentlemen
have neither the means to do more than
help & certainly Mr. Dickson, who has
recently been found out here, has not
the character to support any project. Altho'
I say so, I am in a very difficult position here,
I am in the hands of the leading solicitor
Messrs. McQueen & Donald J^r who command

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W/ respect & attention their climate is of the highest
order. W. & R. Stewart told me that instances
like these he would not have listened to any
new business however tempting unless it had
been brought before him by such a firm,
& unless I had been supported by my Bankers
here who have known me all my business
life & who commended me in every way.

Now, assuming that your friends attempt
to break with me & compel my return to
Canada, I shall of course continue my
negotiations here, but they are not as likely
to prosper in the hands of others who will
not & their own business engagements being
burdened, & cannot put such renewed
life & energy into the work without which
it will drag on until fresh killed by
one of the many here Scotch projects
now in course of preparation. There is
Sir Hugh Allan's project - The land survey
Quines, & Mr. Geo. Stephen & Mr. McJames
are both on this side in connection with
it. Then there is the Dickson - file -
Carmichael project, & lastly Mr.
Ellenhausen's. I know everything that
is being done, or rather attempted to
be done, & as they are none of them
central - except Ellenhausen - to take
their profits out of the results, but all
want a lot of money, I am likely
to succeed before they are sufficiently
well under weigh to find out all
the difficulties of their position. I

What is this now

5/ If by pressure from your side I am 100
compelled to leave this, you will be
frustrated by one or other of these
projects. Leave me to protect all
our interests & I solemnly believe I
will succeed. My whole mind is
on this, the others have many
avocations, & I think I can work
quicker & that I am on the way to
a rapid success. By withdrawing
me from my labours, your interests will
be jeopardized. It will be utterly
impossible for you to recommence
negotiations after you have done
with me. I know the precise state
of affairs, financial & mining. I
speak from actual knowledge.

Under these circumstances, you
& McKim - to whom please show this
letter - should assume the responsibility
of cabling me that I shall not
be driven to extremities, but that
believing fully all I write you, you
will grant me such time as I may
require. You are proprietors as
well as the partners of Pictou.
You know all the facts of the
position, & in the general interest
you should take a determined

stand on my side, for you
are interests & those of the
gentlemen in Pictou.

I write to let you know
to Mr. Proutie about a payment
of one half the money in Jan'y,
& thank you much.

Yours very truly

D. W. Proutie

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D. J. W. Dawson T.S.

