

J. W. Dawson L.L.D. &c. &c. &c.
Principal of the University
Mc Gill College.

Honored Sir

It is with much diffi-
culty that I beg leave to submit for
your inspection a Manuscript work
I intend to have published should I
be supported in doing so.

Some friends having advised me,
I lately refered it to Mr. Barland who
offered to print 500 copies in pam-
phlet form for 25 dollars, and as I am
well known in the City and believe re-
spected by many, there is no doubt on my
mind that a sufficient number of copies
would be sold in a few days to pay the
expences, but as Mr. Barland wants half
the amount paid in advance (and he is
quite right) I could not ask any friend

to assist in that respect without good authority that the work was fit and proper for publication; and should you think there is no objection you would do me a great honor and I think benefit also were you to give ^{me} that opinion, at the same time be assured it will not make one iota of difference in my esteem and regard should you think proper to dissent from doing so.

The theory I have drawn of the planetary system has been revolving in my mind nearly 50 years, and with every revolution has gained in force of truth and stability; I would therefore like to give it to the public were it for no other reason but to get Critics to dissect it, whether they be astronomers natural philosophers or both.

I am now 75 years old and no longer fit for Manual ^{labor} so having nothing to do thought I would try and turn author peace be here as Burns

said when they made him gauger,
but if I can write a book that will
stimulate some young men to search
after truth I will not be without a
reward.

I am

Honored Sir
your most obed^t
humble servant
Alex^r Robertson
ex gardener
Phillips Square

6th August, 1782. } — nobody but myself
has seen the last three or four papers.

P, S,

I beg the manuscript may be sent
at your conveniance to your porter
at the gate

A. R.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
ARCHIVES
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A. Robertson
Sept 1898