Congregational Church,

London, Ont., January 21 1879.

To Principal Dawson,
McGill University.
Montreal.

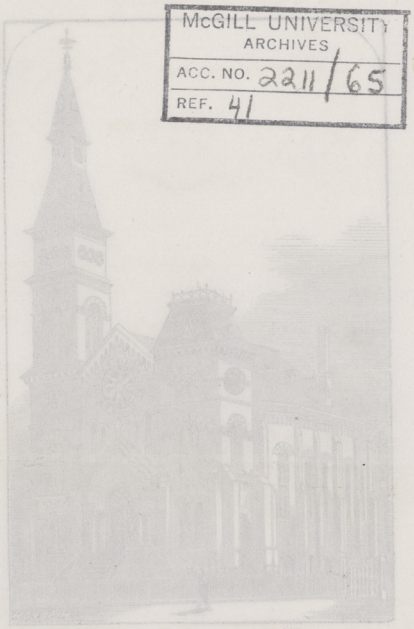
Dear Sir,

A few of us meet every Saturday evening to study important themes. Now we have commenced your book on the "Origin of the world", and we purpose going through it.

Last Saturday we had under review your thoughts concerning the creation of light prior to the Establishment of the luminaries which now supply us with that boon. One of the members suggested a theory which I was asked to submit to you for your consideration, in the hope that you would send us a line or two in criticism of the theory.

It is this. Observing our storms, we find two attendants upon the flash of lightning, (1) An intensity of heat; (2) The presence of large bodies of vapor. Sometimes when the heat is excessive and the clouds very dense, the electric flashes are so quickly successive as almost to form continuous brightness.

Now in the period alluded to in the history of the first day, we may assume that the newly encrusted globe was giving off intense heat, and further that about the chaotic earth there was an Envelope



Wallace

of densest vapours. Query, Given these conditions, could this earliest Genesis of lights have been electric. al? And if so, could there have been such an abundance of Electricity that the lights would be both luminous and brilliant - Even Excessively so?

Our theorist thought that even though the Sun may even at that time have been created, yet the self. luminous atmosphere of the Earth would obscure the Sun's rays. And that as ages passed, and the Earth became cooler, and the atmosphere rarer, the heavenly orbs gradually became visible, until they at last were installed lamps to the Earth.

If not too driven with your work, which I know is always pressing, will you be Kind Enough to send us at your Earliest convenience a thought or two about this theory.

Believe me. dear Sir.

Your old-time pupil & admiring friend

Robert W. Wallace.

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