

Montreal May 14<sup>th</sup> 1879.

M<sup>r</sup>. J. W. Dawson, principal of the Un. of McGill colley

Sir,

You seemed to take a so kind interest to me when I had the honour to visit you yesterday, that I am induced to give some particulars that shall enable you to recommend me if, sometimes, the occasion could be occur.

The most important is to let you know that I understand the english enough well to teach in this language. A few days training shall be very sufficient to me to explain fluently any matter. When I was officer in the French army, I translated entirely several books, american or english, on military subjects, and these works have familiarised me with this language.

In another point of view, it is not perhaps useless to mark that, being a graduate of St Cyr military school

I served twenty-one years in the French army, and resigned in December 1871 with the grade of chief-of-battalion and the grade of officer of the Legion of Honour. - All my papers are in my possession.

Since 5 years I teach the mathematics, following the programme of the "l'École polytechnique" and the "l'École Centrale" of France.

As I told you, one of my pupils who commenced his course two years before and finished in June last year, has been admitted to the concours of October in the "l'École Centrale" of Paris. He is the son of Mr Dagon, a Frenchman, a writer of the English Montrealer paper "journal of commerce".

As I must give an answer to my principal before the end of this month, I have just written, for application, letters to some scientific Institutes in Troy, New-Haven, Boston. But what answer soever I could receive, if any, I would prefer to not leave Montreal where we have, my wife and I, important interests and where we are well known. For this

reason, rather than to leave Montreal, I could  
accept ~~or~~ ~~accept~~ a course more elementary than mine,  
if the salary attached be convenient.

I will be very grateful to you, Sir, if you  
be so kind as to think of me, if you hear something  
advantageous to me.

I am, respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant.

E. Balet.

107. Bligny St.

Legis

Wm Brewster  
May 199

*[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*