



Spencer
Nov/79



Hamilton Ont., Oct. 31st 1879

My Dear Sir.

Allow me to thank you for your letter of recommendation, and also for your kindness in writing to Principal Dart. I sent copies of my old testimonials from you Dr. Harrington, Dr. Bell, Mr. Schuyler, Principal Hunter of Brantford, Prof. Chapman of Univ. Coll. Toronto, besides that from Mr. Dickson. A scientific friend of Dr. Howe & Mr. Mills - of Kingston knowing Principal Dart wrote to him. Also the Rev. James Carmichael knowing Bishop Brimley who is President of the Board of Governors, wrote flattering

letter. I preferred the position from the fact that I would have nothing but the Science, to teach, and be quite independent of that miserable Central Committee in Toronto.

And again, it would be easier to get a still higher position, at some future day, even from a small college. Moreover my work ought to be pleasant for I could shape my own courses.

If the Professorships of Toronto University - in Zoology & Microscopy - were to fall vacant I certainly would be a candidate, unless some Canadian much better known were to apply.

Of course, I hope it will not fall vacant for a number of years, but Dr Chapman often has referred to resigning, as he is getting on in years.

I have a very fine collection
of Minerals, Rocks, and Metamor-
phical Products numbering about
600 varieties. A large number
of these I have collected, but
I have exchanged with American
and other gentlemen on for many
rare species. I have about
500 species of fossils. I have
determined over 100 from the
Lower Silurian, 175 about from
the Up. Silurian, probably 150
species from Devonian, besides
a small Carboniferous,
a fine German Triassic
(including *Mercurius lithomus*)
and Jurassic Collection, and
Post Pliocene.

You asked me to
let you know my College & other
titles. Besides that of McCall
I passed my examinations
at the University of Georgia (just
known better as Göttingen, the
city in which it is situated).
The University conferred the
Degree of Ph.D. and M.A.
Besides these I am a F.R.S.,
and a Mem. Assoc. Acad.

Science. Six months before
I went to Germany, the College
Authorities accepted my
my monograph on the Cupped-
Bearing Roctus as my thesis.
And then sending my application
and sketch of my life in Latin,
I was admitted to the exam-
inations for the degree on
the 20th of July 1877. The
special subjects of the oral
were Zoology (particularly
Palaeontology) & Mineralogy, and
as the leading subjects with
Natural History secondary.

I receive \$700 a year here.
I began on a smaller ^{party}, and some
of the members of the board
are the most illiterate men
in Hamilton. When I applied for
\$300 more, last spring some of these
men opposed my measure until
they were told that I would resign
if they passed \$200 voting
14 to 2, and the latter class
said they would get another \$100
for me as soon as they could.
Pardon me for intruding on your
valuable time.

I am, my dear Sir,
Yours obediently
Wm. Spencer
130. 7th St.
McGill College