

Personal & Confidential!

~~McMillan~~  
~~May 1881~~  
439 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia Pa.

19<sup>th</sup> May 1881

My Dear Dr. Dawson:  
I had the privilege  
of hearing your late  
lectures in "Association  
Hall" & have had a gen-  
eral knowledge of  
your professional char-  
acter & life work  
before that.

I formerly lived  
at Pittsburgh in this  
state but for several  
years have been pastor  
of the 15<sup>th</sup> Pres<sup>n</sup> Church  
in this City - For a

year & more the Western University of Pennsylvania at Pittsburgh has been without a Chancellor. I have represented to the Board of Trustees of that Institution that if you can be removed from Montreal you would be to the Western University just such a Head as it requires - - -

I have a particular friend who has already given \$200,000 towards the endowment of the University & has money enough

& heart enough to  
Endow <sup>handsomely</sup> a Chair for  
"The Chancellor",  
if such a man as  
you could be had for  
the position (?)

I have guessed  
~~when asked your age~~  
your age to be about  
60 (?) when asked <sup>what it is</sup>

I have also been  
asked if you could  
be removed from  
Montreal to Pittsburgh?  
That of course I could  
not even "guess"!  
I was asked what is  
your salary at Montreal  
that I do not know?  
My friend would like  
me to answer these ques-  
tions - You will there -

fore pardon me  
for going directly to  
you with them - And  
if you be disposed  
to say that you would  
take the matter ~~into~~  
consideration, if you  
were officially asked,  
I shall be obliged  
to you for the information  
desired - I should say  
that another gentleman of  
character has been thought of  
& stalked of by the Board of  
the "W. U." But no action has  
been taken & understand that  
there is a disposition by  
influential persons in the  
Board to defer action until  
they can learn whether  
your name might be  
used in connection with  
the Chancellorship

yours very truly & Respectfully  
John McMillan

I shall be glad to have a line  
from you at your earliest convenience?