

McGill College.

Montreal.

January 25, 1882

My Lord,

Your Excellency's
letter of the 19th inst.
reached me only to-day.
I trust that by this time
Mr. Bourinot will have
communicated the minutes
of our meeting here, and
when your Excellency has
had time to scrutinise
them, I shall be very
glad at any convenient
time to give any explanation
that may be desired.

and in professional circles
this is of course much
more invidious than in purely
literary & scientific.

I think however that
your Excellency should carefully
consider the whole matter
as presented in our minutes,
with reference to the wisdom
of the course pursued.

On the one hand it
seemed extremely difficult
to find even a few men
of high literary and
scientific standing. The
names suggested by our French

Some of my
friends are in some ^{of} ~~cases~~ ^{cases}
those of men of high
splendid reputation, we
had to strike out the
English list by adding
philosophical writers, and
we could agree on only
eight geologists of suffi-
cient standing.

On the other hand
it would have been easy
to select a number of men
quite suitable for the
membership of the American
or British Association, but
we should thus have had
a large popular assemblage