

Toronto

Wilson

16th Oct. 1883

My Dear Dr Dawson

I have just got over the labours incident to our College Convocation; and take the first leisure moments to write you a line; as I learn it is still possible to reach you before you start on your Continental travels.

The question of Co-education is one on which I know you take a thoughtful interest, and as it is at present making a little stir here it will perhaps interest you to learn a little of what is doing — though you have happily left all College

care behind you.

Five young ladies sent in applications for admission to the College; and formal notice was given me by a demonstrative number of the Women's Suffrage Association that if we refused they intended to carry it into the Court of Queen's Bench; and demand their rights; as the College Charter says nothing about limitations to males.

I treated this in very cavalier fashion; telling them that the invariable usage went of centuries sufficiently accounted for the terms & meaning of the Charter; and it was

not difficult to predicate what
reins would be taken of their
demand by any Court of Law.
Probably they got no better
encouragement elsewhere;
for I have heard no more
of that movement.

I enclose my reply to the
lady-applicants. The letter got
into the papers. My policy thus
far has been not to provoke
discussion, but this could
no longer be avoided.

The result has so far been
better than I could have hoped
for. The Globe came out
with a timid non-committal
article: evidently waiting to
see what the Government
would decide. I enclose you
the article in the Mail, which

gives no uncertain sound. I am
the servant of the Government.
Should the Legislature take it
up I must move to have a
Commission of enquiry. But
I have great faith in the
power of passive resistance;
and on the unwisdom of
the proposal I entertain no
doubt. The normal condition
of things would be bad enough.
But exceptional cases have
occurred in my experience
here to make me apprehend
possibilities sufficiently alarming.

Pardon my recalling you to the
cares you have left behind you.
All kindest greetings to Mrs.
Dawson. When do you take
up the pilgrim staff and start
on your Crusade? All
choicest blessings go with you.
Yours faithfully
Dan. Wilson