

Redpath

The Manor House,  
Chislehurst.

April 12, 1885

My dear Sir William Dawson,

I have received your very interesting letter of 25th March. I am always glad to hear of the progress of the University. I did not know until a few days ago that Mr Donald Smith had been made a Governor. His large donations entitle him to the honour. You must have felt greatly relieved in the matter of University Education of ladies. To me it is very satisfactory that the education is to be separate, though I

I suppose the examination papers will be the same.

You have made the Museum useful beyond my most sanguine expectations and I cannot but be gratified by the feeling that its cost was not ill bestowed. But I now fear that before long you will find it not large enough for your requirements. You must try to make it last your day and mine.

Opportunities are not seldom thrown in my way of what one gentleman called "doing myself justice" - The paper which I enclose with this is an instance.

I received it from Mr. Douthe who perhaps like many others, thinks my resources practically unlimited. I am sorry that I cannot present Mr. Whitche's birds to the Museum. I have no doubt that a collection made by him would be an acquisition  
unless

unless you have similar specimens already.  
I know nothing about the value. I send  
it to you because you may know some  
one who would procure or collect suffi-  
cient money from others to procure the  
birds if you think them desirable.

You mention the difficulties caused  
by the low rate of interest. My belief  
is that that ~~cause~~ cause of trouble is a perma-  
nent one. I would advise a limitation  
of the expenditure to five per cent on the  
Capital for investment. Any excess should  
be added to the principal. I have no  
doubt that interest may occasionally rise  
to 7 or 8 for a short time, but I do not  
think it safe to calculate on more than  
five with such security as the college  
should have. No doubt Sir can be got  
but as I understand it you have money  
now which you cannot satisfactorily invest  
at



at that -

I am glad to learn that you are to be President of the B.A. in 1886 - I saw the announcement in a paper called the "Canadian Gazette" published in London, and containing a great deal of information about Canada from Halifax to the Pacific. So I suppose the nomination has been confirmed. It will be a change and doubtless some relief from your constant labour. You will never have any "leisure", it is not in you -

It is very dreadful to think of the almost certainty of a war with Russia whose unprovoked aggression and utter duplicity seems to demand a check. A war under the circumstances may last for years - As India seems quite loyal and at any rate prefers British rule to the prospect of Russian rule my policy would be to send as many troops as I could find provisions for ~~two~~ three or four hundred thousand and capture  
or

or annihilate any army the Russians could gather in Afghanistan - This may sound very Boabdilish, but the English are too prone to consider how few men can do the work immediately before them, instead of making a "big push" at ~~once~~.

The intelligence from the North West is very disquieting - I will try to see Sir Chas. Dufferin or Mr Coliner tomorrow and get the latest intelligence.

We are very sorry to hear of Mrs Carpenter's illness - We have had some experience ourselves. My wife has been an invalid since November - She took cold in October - went to Brighton early in November and made it worse there - When she was laid up at home and, the doctor said, narrowly escaped a dangerous attack of bronchitis - She became a little better and on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> went to Ventnor Island hoping that a fortnight's change would be sufficient, but she took fresh cold there and was threatened with inflammation of

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of both lungs. She remained in the house  
and most of the time in bed for nine  
weeks. I brought her home on Thursday  
(9th) and with the exercise of every possible  
care she made the journey without any  
very perceptible harm. She went to bed  
immediately on arrival and remained  
there until today when she came down  
to dinner. The cough which afflicted  
her grievously has almost gone but she  
is extremely weak and I suppose will not  
gain much strength until the weather permits  
her to go out. We have had a very long  
spell of East Wind which still prevails.  
She sends her love to you all and  
is sure Lady Dawson will excuse her  
writing until she feels stronger.

A thought occurs to me sometimes about ladies' edu-  
cation at College. Comparisons will be made between  
their achievements and those of the men. The comparison  
would not be fair. You will only get clever girls whereas  
you have average men. The publication of <sup>comparative</sup> results  
might be injurious.

With kindest regards, I am Yours very truly,  
Sir M. Dawson Montreal Peter Redpath  
P.S. I expect to visit Canada next Autumn.