



Wm
Dec 26

Toronto

20th Dec. 1886

My Dear Sir William

When I learn that you are going to Boston, under the auspices of the Lowell Institute, I feel ashamed to have named to you our Saturday lectures here, which are to be free, and for which I could only pay your expenses. I have lectured for the Lowell Institute, and know their liberality.

As however you have not given me the curt rebuff that I desired but enquire for information as to what our Saturday lectures are to be, I must respond. All that is aimed at is a brief course of

not more than eight lectures on
miscellaneous subjects. Goldwin
Smith gives one; Prof. Hanson, Wright
another, myself another, &c.
A strong desire has been expressed
by the students to have one from
you. The choice of subject will
rest entirely with yourself; and
if you reply that, with Boston,
and the Lowell Institute before
you, you cannot entertain the
proposition, I shall consider
your reply most reasonable.

Unfortunately, I did not see
Dr. George when here. I was engaged
all day; and did not get home
till late for our 6.30 dinner
hour, when I found a note from
William saying he had to return
by the 8 P.M. train, but I learn
that he will probably be here
again. Meanwhile what I feel
is that if Prof. Chapman asserts
successfully his rights to a choice,

on the proposed division of his
Chair, then I should hope that
the notorious incapacity of the
proposed Candidate, in the
Department of Geology would
enable me to insist on an-
other appointment; and if so
I could with great confidence
urge Dr. George's Claims. If he
favours the idea, then all that
I should wish you to do at
present is to take the ground
that as, under the proposed
Scheme of University Confed-
eration it is proposed to add
various new chairs, and
modify or rearrange the
present Lectureships, you
urge his claims, as a Native
Canadian; Assistant Director
of the Canadian Survey, &c.

and one who has done good
work as a man of science in
proof of his competency.

Fail not to press the "Native
Canadian" claim; for that
cry is only too much respected
here at present. When it can
be used in favour of a
thoroughly good man, such
as I know my friend Dr
G. M. Dawson to be, then it
is altogether legitimate. Other
things being equal, the native
Canadian should certainly
have the preference.

If I should find myself
in the position, after having
strongly protested against
the other candidate, of

having Dr George named to
me, and my opinion of his
qualifications asked, You
will see how much stronger
my position would be; and
how much better I could
aid him, than if, while
opposing a nominee of the
Government, I at same
time named another as
my rival nominee.

This matter of patronage
in relation to University Chairs
is a most difficult question.
I believe the surest way would
be to leave it to the head of
the College. But that supposes
him to be capable, strictly
conscientious, and judicious.

Given the wise despot, there
is nothing so good as the one
man power. But capable
despots are marvellously rare!
The Johns Hopkins owes much
of its success to this. We, on
the contrary rejected Huxley
for Hinks!!!

Our elections for the local
legislature take place on the
28th of this month. I fancy the
allowal is all safe. As soon
as they are over the actions
necessary for carrying out
consideration must be
taken in hand; so that it
will be desirable, if any
thing is to be done, that
you move in it soon.

Kindest remembrances
to Lady Dawson.
faithfully yours
D. M. Torrey