

Peterborough. 9th April 87-

Dear Sir William Dawson,

Please excuse my
trespassing on your valuable time
but it is a matter in which I
think you will be able to help
a friend of mine who is very
anxious for employment.
I see your son's name mentioned
as "the head of the Geological
Expedition to British Columbia".
and Mr. Mackham would
be admirably qualified to form
one of his band if there still
remains an opening for him.
He has had some little experience
in surveying work, having during
the past winter served under
Mr. Dawson - but he wants more
regular work - and being a
man in good health, and used

he thinks himself fully com-
pelled to engage in such a
life, as he

"to conquering it", and has been
accustomed to hard work —
His age is 36. There is also
necessity laid upon him to
do something for a living,
as he has five children to
support. He asked me if
I knew "Dr. Darason", and
when I said only by name,
but I had the privilege of
knowing his father, he then
begged me to write in his
behalf — I must enter somewhat
into his private history, and
then you will the better under-
stand why I am personally
interested in W. Backham —
His wife was taken from him 2
years ago. She was a much loved
young niece of my daughter's & my ref.
He has been seventeen years in
Canada — the son of an English

physician - unfortunately brought
up to do nothing, but raise, sell
all the sports of young England
in which he excelled - his
mind almost a blank - sent
out to do for himself at an early
age with a small capital, but
like too many others took to
farming - and very soon
lost all he had - His wife
had money - not much - but
that being fortunately settled
on her children, left's very
little for present use - He
had one unfortunate habit -
and by degrees he found himself
~~was~~ obliged to give up his
house - and go and do anything
by which he could earn an
honest living & add to his
reduced income - his four
eldest children (girls) are with
me, and he feels greatly distressed
at not being able to afford more
for their maintenance, and
I am not in a position to keep
them much longer. If they
leave me they have no home
to go to, hence my anxiety to

To do what I can in his interest.
He is a fine handsome looking
man, most desirous to get away
from his old associates here -
and I am equally anxious
to get him away for sundry
reasons. Men call him "an
awfully nice fellow"; and
really there is much to like in
him - one feels so intensely sorry
to see a man in the prime of life
willing to work (and he says he
would do anything) get unable
to procure it. I do hope it is
not too late - and that if your
son can give him work he
will do so = It is now many years
since we met in Montreal, & so
much has happened to remind
us that this is not our best, merely
events are bringing near the great
Day of the Lord's appearance - when
also He will bring with Him those
who are hidden from our longing
& sorrowing eyes - Will you kindly
remember me to Lady DeCaillon, and
again apologise for intruding on
you believe me Dear Sir William
Very sincerely yours
Helen Hamilton.

Having mentioned an unfortunate
habit, it is but fair to say
that he has very greatly
conquered it - and if amongst
steady people, and fully
employed, also where he
cannot get it, I really
hope he will give it up alto-
gether. I hope what I have
said will not prejudice your
son against him - but it is
only honest to state this - he
is a gentleman in manner
& ways - and thoroughly desirous
to get away for years" as he
said today - physically he
is just the man for such a
life - as he can stand any amount
of cold, and has never been
frost-bitten all the years he has
lived in Canada. His brother
was one of that party with two
of Dr. Selwyn's sons & two of ours

Mr. Baultain
who in 1800 I think, went out
to the North West.

His address is

W. H. Mackham
Petebrough.

You will kindly keep my
personal information private.