

Dr. McLean



Toronto

23^d Oct. 1857

My Dear Sir William

I have purposed writing
you ever since I learned that
you were safe home again
after your pleasant visit to
England. But I dare say your
own experience sufficiently
corresponds with my own to
render apologies needless. I
have been working at high
pressure for the past four
weeks; and we have so many
Colleges, Schools of Medicine,
&c., &c., all with their opening
lectures, Conversazioni, &c. that
one is expected to attend - that
fact has seemed making a

dead set at me. But to day
I find myself with leisure enough
enough to say to you how pleasant
it was for me to realise the
heartly appreciation with which
you were welcomed at home
as our fittest representative
Canadian. The Birmingham
meeting must have been in
every way most pleasant.
We have now the pleasure of
having Anna as our guest.
and I am exceedingly glad
to learn from her that Lady
Dawson retains no evil effects
resulting from her alarming
accident. It must have
occasioned you no little
anxiety at the time.

You have probably noted
that the subject of University

Confederation occupies us
largely at present. The
Methodist Conference has
approved of the proposed
affiliation of Victoria
College. It only remains
to be seen how far the
needful details can be
agreed to on a basis accept-
able to all. I have an
intense dislike to anything
approximating to ecclesiastical
censorship on secular studies.
Nothing but evil has ever
come out of it. I wish to see
no limit placed on the
utmost freedom of thought.
Truth is sure to triumph in
the end; and the dishonest

way in which theologians are
often seen to marshal them-
selves on the side of a ~~the~~ orthodox
error, which in their secret
hearts they doubt; - on
positives disbelieve, is
enough to make men sceptics.

But you will see from
this that I really have
nothing particular to say
to you. My only object
in writing is to express to
yourself and Lady Dawson
the pleasure with which
I welcomed your safe
return home. Sybil has
been far from strong; and
has occasioned me a good
deal of anxiety; but she is
now well. Yours faithfully
Dan. Wilcox