

Foville  
Montreal College

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 87.

Sir,

Several weeks' journey to the united States, and since I came back, painful circumstances at home have prevented me too long to take due notice of the Lecture you were so kind as to send me. In thanking you at last for the attention I find it impossible to enlarge upon a subject so new for me as that of provincial legislation, but I cannot hesitate to declare it very just that to a course of studies

sanctioned by law should answer a system of examination in accordance with its programs.

As to a certain particular jurisdiction founded upon the practice of foreign civilized countries I must candidly confess that it would not seem very strongly supported by the example of France whose circumstances are but known to me - It is very true viz. that the degree of B. A. is then sufficient for admission to the professional studies; but as that degree is only conferred by State examiners and according to one uniform program, it follows that all schools & professors, whether public or private

are practically bound to regulate  
their teaching upon the same official  
standard.

May I beg to add that a book,  
even a text book of scholastic philo-  
sophy is not likely to be fairly appre-  
ciated by the general cultivated public,  
no more than a treatise on differential  
calculus or systematic crystallography.  
As every deeper field of study, that  
philosophy, in substance that of Aristotle,  
has a technical language and  
a sphere of arduous notions which can  
only be appropriated by special laborious  
imitation - But it is my conviction,  
founded upon facts, that no system when  
thoroughly mastered is better adapted

to reconcile the modern discoveries of  
Science, especially of Physiology, with  
those principles of natural and revealed  
religion of which you have always been  
so learned and zealous an advocate —

That adherence to the said system is  
not a mere effect of prejudice seems  
best shown by the example of such emi-  
nent and independent thinkers as Trende-  
lenburg in Berlin and Barthélemy St  
Hilaire in Paris, who, uninfluenced by  
any traditional spirit, have recently  
become restorers of the same in the  
chairs of purely laical universities.

Trusting, Sir, that notwithstanding  
any stiffness or awkwardness of English expres-  
sion, you will be satisfied that a mere love  
of sincerity has prompted me to submit such  
remarks to your consideration I am, with  
much respect

Yours very thankfully  
D. de Forville