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86 Boulevard de Port Royal

Oct. 22, 1877.

William

debut

My dear Father,

I called upon Sir John  
Kose in London to ask him about  
my reporting upon the Engineering  
exhibits at the Paris Exhibition. He  
referred me to the Secretary of the  
Commission, M<sup>r</sup>. Urwin (I think)  
to whom he gave me a note. I learn  
from him that the British Commission  
do not contemplate having any  
report made, as they consider that  
no one reads such things. He  
also informed me that in case  
of any report being thought of, the  
Commission would employ a person  
who had already made a name for  
himself in the Profession, as other-  
wise the report would not be thought  
anything of. He advised me some-  
what strongly to see all I could of

the Exhibition, and said that I might perhaps get some position in connection with it, as Assistant. (I forget what) which would enable me to pay my expenses while remaining to see it. He gave me his Paris address, and told me he would be glad to do anything he could, etc.

This opens up my way a little so far as Canada is concerned, & I suppose it is worth while applying although I am likely to receive a similar answer. I will write to Mr. Page & Mr. Fleming at the same time, to try to gain their support in the matter.

I received your letter in which you ask me to get a Catalogue for Dr. Johnson. I called at the place, but it seems that only one of the volumes can now be had, all the others being out of print. I got it & send it by this mail. The price is £10<sup>00</sup> with £1.75 postage. Making in all \$2.35. I did not think it worth sending to London as it was but one volume. Enclosed with it is an advertisement of Meteorological apparatus, on which there

ought to be a volume. The volume  
on Chemical apparatus will appear  
before spring, but unfortunately  
the vol: on Light & Electricity is  
not expected to be reprinted for a  
year or two.

I am now putting the notes  
I took when on the Canal de l'Est  
into a consecutive form. I found  
it rather difficult to get under  
way at first, as general questions  
such as the reason for the construc-  
tion of the Canal ever having been  
contemplated had to be met; and  
the general arrangement of the sub-  
ject had to be decided upon. My  
average for the first day or two  
was about two pages of foolscap;  
but since then I have been getting  
on a little faster. I find it very  
interesting, but unfortunately I  
have to leave out many interesting  
details which I might point out if  
I had two months of leisure in-  
stead of two weeks. I do not write  
in the evenings, as I do not care  
to tire myself. I got a Cowper  
when I was in London, (a nice  
gilt-edged illustrated edition for 2/9)

and I have begun to read a little  
of it. Also Scotts poems, & some  
music for the flute; so that I am  
not at a loss when an odd half  
hour turns up.

I called at the School the  
other day for a book I wanted, but  
there are no notices up yet. The  
courses will commence on Satur-  
day of next week, Nov. 3.

I will probably draw upon  
Gill before the session opens al-  
though I hardly need anything yet.  
I spent £6-9-10 in passing through  
England, and yet the two journeys only  
came to £2-5-0. I gave in addition  
23/- for a pair of boots, which left  
about £3 on hand on arriving here.  
I had £22 from last year, & also  
\$4.10 from what you gave me on leaving  
which I changed in London. Then there were  
£83 which returns I pay now into  
account ~~for~~ commissions &c de-  
ducted last winter. Altogether this  
gives me quite a little set up in  
commencing.

With much love, I remain your  
affectionate son  
William.