

M. Gill College.
Montreal.

Dec 10, 1889.

Dear Rankine,

Yours of Nov 29
reaches me this P. M.,
just as I am packing
up for an expedition on
public business to Ottawa,
but as the mail
leaves to-morrow, I
write a few lines to
give you my present
impressions. Of course
what you say is very
serious, and fills me

Recd copy
of Number
Dec 189

to all of us, and of
it should prove that you
must abandon all hope
of fighting the battle
of life in the "high places
of the field" we must
be resigned to it."

I believe however
that if you could re-
concile yourself to steady
and regular work,
anywhere or in anything
along with abstemious
habits, your natural
gifts would speedily

with anxiety, at the
same time it may
be true in your case
as in others that
a man cannot be
his own physician.

Taking the case
however as you put
it, I would say that
it is your immediate
duty to consult some
eminent specialist in
whom you have con-
fidence, and Keeby

state to him all your
symptoms and habits.

If you are advised
that there is anything
serious, then I should
be the first to counsel
and abet with all
my means immediate
departure from all work
a worry that involves
any risk, and the
use of the best means
for entire recuperation.

This is your first
duty to yourself and

2

assist themselves and
draw you by degrees
to higher fields of
usefulness.

I can only advise
from my own know-
ledge and experience
such as they are; and
have been quite willing
that you should in all
things judge for yourself,
but if you cannot trust
your own judgment I hope
you will take the best
advice available in the

New York
pages
know
who tells
me the
children
have
learned
a nice
letter
from
I have
sent you
a book
which you
ought
to read
at the
1st vol.

wild, whatever it may
be; and above all
ask God's guidance, which
will surely lead you
right whenever way fail.

Finally, if you will
stop indolence (that most
fatal disease) and come
to us, we shall all do
everything in our power
to make life easy and
agreeable to you, and
to ward off from you
its evils and struggles

I am tired and
have little time, and
shall think much of the
matter. May God bless you
and grant you his own peace
to render your Christmas happy
Such yours
W. D. Howson