

Per Professor Cunningham

Mrs Dawson

McGill College
Montreal





Amherst 10th March
1870

My dear Mrs. Dawson,

I was really very much pleased to receive your kind welcome letter, though I fear you will scarcely think so, if you judge from the time I have taken to reply to it; each mail day brings its engagements, & so my letter gets deferred, till the next, and for the last five weeks, we have had our dear baby with us, on whom I lay all my excuses for all short comings; there is either some work to do for him, or he is in the room, and nothing can be done but watch him & his

grubby ways; he is lazy in both
talking & walking, but he grows
in intelligence & interest every
day. I should indeed be pleased
to see you in my English
home, and do hope you may
be able to accompany Mr. Dawson
this Spring - it is so very long
since you were in this part
of the world, that the coming
would be to you I fear but
a source of mingled feeling of
pleasure & pain - so many changes
must have taken place, yet it
would do you good in many
ways, and I am sure I shall
rejoice to see you.

Mr. Galloons lectures commenced
last Friday; I hope to attend them

as usual, and I do hope they will
be published; he is to take passages
from the book of Hosea for his
subject, remarking, by way of pre-
face, that the minor prophets
are generally neglected & claiming
for them a high place in those
Scriptures we are told to "search"
as being able to "make us wise
unto salvation". I never hear this
good servants of Christ, without
feeling sad there are so few such;
our church is in a most deplora-
ble state at present, making our
fear very much, not for it, but
the ignorance and indifference,
which must be the result of
all such want of proper teaching;
there is either almost profanity or
raving against it, or apathy;
but good earnest winning teaching
is seldom found - our own church

is the one drawback to our present
house - it is a nice distance, a
pleasant quiet walk from our
home and all is good but the
minister, and I expect it will end
in our going to a Congregational
Chapel near; but as my sympathies
are in favour of the Church of
England it will take time to
consider leaving it, so we are
waiting in the hope of a better min-
ister. You kindly express an in-
terest in our work among the
blind; my own special work is
confined to the women's work
but there is the constant opportu-
nity of at least making them
feel our sympathy, though they
don't like to be pitied, they wish
to show they can be as like others
as possible, and it is sometimes

a little difficult not to hurt
their feelings. on the whole
I think there is no other insti-
tution in the town which com-
bines more real temporal & spi-
ritual help, or at least aims
at giving it than ours, and when
I remember its small beginning
I cannot but feel that the Lord
has prospered us in a wonderful
way; we hope to have our new
workshops completed & entered
into before the end of the year;
of course we want more money
but as we have been "hitherto
helped" we must still trust
in the same kind hand -

Mr. Cunningham has had a good
winter on the whole, but
his attacks of pain are as

uncertain as ever though notes
so frequent. I was very glad
to hear your invalid son was
able to move about better, indeed
I think I heard he was in this
Country: this will be a great
comfort to you, after all your
anxiety and nursing.

I heard a very nice account
of your daughter, from Mrs. King
who came to see us lately;
she must be a pleasant com-
panion and great help to you.
Will you give my love to dear
Miss Linn & tell her I hope to
write to her soon; we shall
soon I am sorry to say lose
our bright little Sunbeam & his
Mamma they are leaving in about

ten days; I shall then have rather
more time, but a duller house;-
I was anxious to write to you,
before you could have started
for this country, as I truly
hope you will^{do}, and that I shall
soon see you face to face, for
I always feel thankful ever
to have known you.

Mr. Cunningham sends his kind
regards to you & joins me in
kind remembrances to Mr. Dawson
and with my best love to

yourself I remain my dear Mr. Dawson

Yours in much affection
James M. Cunningham