

to Mr. J. T. Jenau. Dec. 18
1871

My dear Mr. Dawson

Acc. 377

Do you know that per-
haps you might have heard from
me before but for the greatness
of your proposal and wonderful
invitation which almost takes my
breath away when I think of it.
I cannot finally say "No" to it
but much less can I say at pre-
sent "Yes." It would indeed be a
great treat in many ways and if
I were particularly fond of making
a sensation I should have a temp-
tation to come that I might be "pick-
ing my battles" I travel "over again" as-
tound my friends by going to Canada
and by what I should have to tell
on my return. I cannot say that
the idea of the journey particularly
pleased me, for I have set you to

a interesting, I should perhaps
have thought of inviting Miss
~~Stanhope~~ to come to me this winter
if she would have been very near
the museum but she would have
been nearly entirely dependent on
herself for interest & I cannot
believe that my society would have
at all compensated her for other
great deficiencies in her residence
with me. It is said that all English
Cathedrals toward all dull and out of
the residence of a Bishop, so may
partly come under the same category.
I believe I have as large an acquaintance
in Fulham as most people but few
give parties and meetings of any kind au
re. You will be very sorry to learn
that Mr. Newcomb's state is still
most precarious. There was a little hope
of her some time ago; hardly indulged how
ever by Mr. Newcomb but things have
been going most strangely lately.

to Mr. J. J. Fenner. Dec. 18

1871

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My dear Mr. Dawson

Do you know that per-
haps you might have heard from
me before, but for the greatness
of your proposal and wonderful
invitation which almost takes my
breath away when I think of it!

I cannot finally say "No" to it
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I believe I have as large an acquaintance
in Fulham of most people, but few
give parties and meetings of any kind are
rare. You will be very sorry to learn
that Mr. Newcomb's state is still
most precarious. There was a little hope
of her some time ago; hardly indulged how
ever by Mr. Newcomb, but things have
been going most strangely lately.

I don't give her up, but yet I feel
that I should not be surprised, if
at any moment I heard she was
dead. There are two favorable symp-
toms, she eats now, and the sore on
her back - from lying - was healing
when I heard. I am requested not to go
to Hackney as she could not see me,
and if she knew I was there, would
hate to refuse seeing me, and would say
it is a fearful trial, but her eldest
daughter is in consequence passing through
an experience, which is vouchsafed to a
sister. The Princess is beginning to fear
for her; the nursing is so severe. We
are having very dull weather and think
there is a good deal of illness. The
Prince seems now just to be taking the
turn and will probably recover. I wonder
whether you will receive the number of
the Graphic I sent Miss Dawson by the
same mail as this. I should like to know
what English periodicals are most read

in Montreal. Have you been entertaining
the Grand Duke Alexis? I have
just received a letter in which it is
had an account of Mrs. Percomb that
I think she may perhaps now be dead,
and at any rate I am at once going
to the dentist to get a piece of fresh
merino dyed black which I have
had for a fortnight kept back from
the dressmaker being in doubt.

I have never seen anything
of your dear son. I suppose like
many students, he does not like be-
traying on new lady acquaintances
who might not suit him.

I have to thank you for
Dr. Dawson's lecture on Education.
We are a curious set here. We are at
the very fountain head of everything and
yet we are very superficial. But
the nearer advantages are as a rule we
prize them less. I dare say you compre-
hend many things better in Montreal.

than we do in Fulham. I leave off hurriedly with best regards to Dr. Dawson and your daughter. Believe me

My dear Mr. Dawson

Yours sincerely
A. M. Walker