

Providence, Jan<sup>y</sup> 15<sup><sup>th</sup></sup> 1881. <sup>Papineau</sup>

Dear Mrs. Dawson: Enclose aft.

for \$100. for expenses of Bible Leader  
to Gen. Hospital. from Jan 15<sup><sup>th</sup></sup>, 81  
to July 15<sup><sup>th</sup></sup>, 81.

Thanks for your kind remembrance  
& the lovely card bearing a  
Christmas greeting - Pray accept  
my sincerest wishes for a  
Happy New Year to you & Yours.  
I hear that it is intensely cold  
in Canada this winter - while  
on this continent the weather  
is mild; - so much so, that  
they are apprehensive that  
great injury will follow  
in consequence, to the autumn  
sowed grain & the fruit trees,  
& poor Italy cannot bear  
even one season's failure.

Providence as usual is well  
filled with English & Americans.

but I think the present  
Govt. which should be  
liberal in all things - is  
very unwise in placing an  
entrance fee to the galleries -  
& in not having them well  
warmed; & thus, <sup>instead of</sup> making  
attractive, & a cheap place  
to study art, it is a tax  
upon families, & unsafe  
for the health, to visit  
the Uffizi & Pitti as often  
as those would desire who  
bring their daughters here  
for education. - One feels  
the change after the open-  
handed generosity of  
France. The sculptors' studios,  
are freely open to strangers  
& there are this season some



very fine originals here.  
As I am writing, one of the  
hious of Florence is passing  
the window - guiding twenty  
horses, two abreast, & strange  
to say he drives thro all the  
streets of the city, turning  
corners without accident.  
He is strapped into his dog Cart  
& has his hands full of various  
colored reins. This a mania  
that the police should correct.  
"Quida" has a villa here - and  
receives strangers - but as I  
do not approve of her writings  
I did not visit her. There are  
very pleasant people here &  
we have the entrée to some  
charming circles & our winter  
is passing rapidly away -  
but we have been much

disappointed that Mr Capron  
could not join us - & we  
now think it possible  
that we shall go to  
Canada in the spring.

With kindest regards

Yours very truly

M. E. Weston Papineau

