

MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
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McGill College,
Montreal.

Dec 10/89

Dear Rankine,

Yours of Nov^r,

29 arrives just as I am
preparing to leave for
Ottawa on a matter
of public business; but
as the regular mail
leaves to-morrow I
write a few lines at
once.

What you say
is very serious and
fills me with anxiety,
but the matter is seri-

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death one in which
it is preeminently true
that no man can
safely be his own
physician.

Taking the case
then as you put it
your manifest and
immediate duty is
to consult some
specialist in whom
you have confidence,
and to place yourself

unreservedly in his hands,

If you are advised
that there is anything
serious, then I should
be the first to counsel
and abet with all
my means any
steps that may
be necessary to secure
entire recuperation,
which with your good
constitution should be
a quite possible result.
This is your

first duty not only
to yourself but also
to us, for you well
know that anything
fatal to you would
be so to your mother
and me as well.
Even if you must
abandon all hope
of fighting the battle
of life on those "high
places of the field"
in which we had
hoped, this will
be better than any sink.

In any event we shall be most happy if you can be with us here, where all, from oldest to youngest love you, and would do all possible to make life agreeable,

I can of course advise only from my own knowledge and experience such as they are, and have wished that you should follow your own judgment rather than mine. Since however you seem to distrust

Your own judgment &
to suffer from that sort
of disease in decision,
I hope you will take
the best advice available
in the world, whatever
it may be, and
above all ask God's
guidance, who will
surely lead you right
wherever you may fail.

I have sent you
a "Christmas Star"
and a book about

I have read with much
interest, and commend
to you, May God
bless you and grant
you his own peace
and make your
Christmas happy

We all send love
and kind greetings. Anna
has told me of your
kind letter to the
children.

Ever yours,
Mrs. Dawson