

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	976 28.
REF.	4

M^cGill College.
Montreal.

Nov 8, 1890,

Dear Rankine,

I have to apologise
to you for opening a
letter which I received
yesterday, and which
came to address
that at first sight
of it I thought it
might be about Col.
Eye turned and in-
tended for me.

Allow me to
say however that I was
rather startled by finding

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you in a scheme against
which both Harrington
and I have your
actual knowledge of
the facts, warned those
who have committed us,
Canadian Phosphates can
pay only for mining on
an enormous and
small scale on cheap
properties. The nature
of the deposits makes
this certain, and the
attempt to form a
large company with

Much capital must be
a mere bubble, which
has already damaged
the industry by promoting
exaggerated ideas among
holders of phosphate
lands here. I would
advise you to part with
at once any stock you
may have even at
a loss, and above all
avoid anything in the
way of commencing the
enterprise to any form

friends, as that might
damage your reputation
which would be worse
than loss of money.

Excuse me for giving
you advice unasked, but
I would do the same
to any friend in matters
of which I know, and
have saved many of
our friends from reckless
ventures. Only last week
Sir Samuel Smith counselled
me about a similar venture
(much more promising however
than the phosphate company)
in which he was interested

to take part.

In regard to the
 quette, I find that it
 was paid to September
 & perhaps they have dis-
 continued it. I shall
 see that it is renewed.
 The British Medical Journal
 still comes addressed
 to you. I have merely
 piled them up, wanting
 your orders.

Mamma and I are
 fairly well but finding
 ourselves too feeble for
 the prep of work thrown
 upon us in the present

P.S. We still have some hope that you may be able to
come out this winter; but do don't know what is
best in
your own
interest.

rapid growth of the
College and its ne-
cessaries. I am serious
Meditating retirement as the
only means of living a few
years longer (70 last October)
and we are endeavoring
to restrict our expenditures
this winter, in hope of
being able to save enough
to live independently. I do
not like this much, as I
would rather go off with
relat than whittle down
our usual benevolences to
a pint; but there seems no
help for it. Sarge was here
last Sunday. He looks well,
but the place was in a whirl
with the visit of the Mrs & Steel
Institute & other engagements, and
we saw too little of him.

With love from all
our yours

M. Dawson