

1028/71/30

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~~Copy of a letter from Dr. Osler~~

20 Radegonde St.

Montreal.

[Oct. 25 1875]

To Mrs. J. - from W. O.

My dear Sir -

No doubt before this, the sorrowful intelligence, of your son's death has reached you, & now, when the first shock has perhaps to a slight extent passed away, some further particulars of his last illness may be satisfactory. I was called in professionally on the evening of Thursday 22nd & on the following day, discovered unmistakable evidence of the nature of his disease. On Saturday in consultation with Dr. Howard - the leading practitioner in our city, his removal to the Smallpox Hospital was decided upon. I secured a private ward and took him there in the evening. Even at this date was seen the serious nature of the case, & I sent for Mr Wood at his request.

At 10 p.m. I ^{2.} found him with your
son, & we left him tolerably comfortable
for the night. He was easier on
Sunday morning, but well aware of
his dangerous state. He spoke to me
of his home & his mother and
asked me to read the 43rd chapter
of Isaiah, which she had marked
in his Bible. I spent the greater
part of the morning talking &
reading with him. His wood
called in 3 or 4 times during the
day, & at 9.30 P.M. I found him
there again. His Norman had
also been in just previously. He was
still sensible & requested to see
Dr. Howard again, in consultation
with Dr. Simpson, the attending
Physician to the small pox hospital.
After 11 o'clock he began to sink
rapidly, & asked me not to leave him.
He did not speak much, but turned
round at intervals to see if I were
still by him.

About 12 o'clock I heard some muttering some prayers, but could not catch distinctly what they were. The only words I caught were, -
 "God the Father, Son, & Spirit."

Shortly after this he turned round and held out his hand, which I took & he said quite plainly, "Oh Thanks." These were the last words the poor fellow spoke. From 12.30 he was unconscious, and at 1.25 a.m. passed away, without a groan or struggle. As the son of a clergyman & knowing well what it is to be a "stranger in a strange land" I performed the last office of Christian friendship I could, & read the Commendatory Prayer at his departure.

Such my dear Sir, as briefly as I can give these are the facts relating to your son's death.