

Mr James Dawson
March
Pictou.

& for the two grand lous
you delivord at Pictou.
less of Whiskey immediately.

Dear
John
Dawson
March 1851

The sum to be paid
is sixteen shillings.
I need 10 or 15 per
cent you would like

Mr James Dawson

Pearson's West Row May 6th 1825

Dear Sir

I wrote hurriedly last night by the postman a note addressed to Quin Jenon, announcing my arrival here on my return from the election of the County of Sydney - On learning that he might be at his country house I added Dr Skinner's name to the address that the news might be circulated among my friends as soon as possible - The contents of this note will have reached you, by which you will perceive that I am again elected by a vast majority. I annex to you further particulars -

On losing my seat by the decision of the Committee I dispatched letters to my various supporters in the County requesting their advice under such novel circumstances. From all quarters the same answer was sent back, desiring me to come forward, & offering their determination to put me on at their expense. Before these letters reached Halifax & of course before my purpose was taken, Robt M. Callow, a witness at Halifax, gave out that he would offer. Should I decline the contest. This he said openly in all companies; while great doubts were entertained by my friends as to my intention - Steele put his card into the Papers, in the face of Mr Callow's declaration & with the design to measure swords with him - Steele

calculated on the jealousy existing in the lower district
against the powerful family & in the upper against any
resident member who would, from his local attachments,
prefer the interests of Guysboro to that of Antigonish.
All this time, it never seems to have occurred to Steel
that I would come forward, or if it did, he disregarded
it. So canoe then he set sail on April 10th & on coming
to Guysboro on Wednesday the 13th he publicly gave out that
he meant to oppose Robt Collier & that there was no
prospect or chance of my appearance - On the 15th
I got to Guysboro, by the way of St. Mary's & struck estab-
lishment into Steel's party - New plans were laid &
new diligences employed - The fishermen were informed by
scouts sent out in every direction, that their enemy had
again taken the field & that they must muster all their
strength to defeat Agricola - the friend of the farmer.
Such has been the poison infused into their minds by Steel's
emissaries & by himself! Do J. Hill had struck up his cards
of being a candidate at least two weeks before this time
& in total ignorance also of my intentions. He arrived at
Guysboro on the 17th & knew of ~~my~~ my being there, only
at the interval, 10 miles from this village - But Hill &
Steel were acting in concert & with one common interest.
They consulted together & it was agreed that each should offer on
Monday the 18th but astonishing to say, Hill could not
find a pretender in Guysboro either to propose him or
give him a vote. The Poll opened & Hill walked in front
of the hustings in despair; his name or interest was never men-

tioned. The fishermen supported Steel; the magistrates & farmers
voted for me - The result was 71 to 85 - At St. Marys the
fishermen came round & balanced exactly the farmers of that
settlement who gave me their unanimous suffrages - In
the mean time Lot Church arrived at Sydney on April 20th
called on the principal men & met their unequalled repulses.
He talked of his mighty influence with the Governor, the
House of Assembly, the Speaker &c. but particularly with
the great body of the people - He told them that he could be
returned himself, for any county or township; or could
cause any man he supported, to be returned. He pub-
lished a handbill in Sydney, which contained spelling
& grammar, & addressed it to "John Steel's friends, sign-
ing it "Lot Church M.P." These insults on the county
led to the cropping of his horse's tail & mane & to the boiling
of the tar with which he was to be covered & feathered.
It was known too that he had presented the Petitions in
the House & had been busy on the Committee of the
These preparations for publicly affronting him happened
on Friday night April 22nd. & on Saturday morning the 23rd he
discovered that his horse was shorn of his honours & heard
that the larrying & feathering was to take place that night.
Steel's horse, tho' in a different stable, was also cropped
& these scenes led to their instant departure from Syd-
ney early that morning. I went myself to Lot Church
& warned him of his danger; urged him not to return
to the village but get out of the county as fast as pos-
sible - He & Steel started off to St. Marys a day sooner
than they had intended & without consulting with their party.

return was confidently expected till the poll opened on
Monday at Ingleton - There on the hustings Mr Hill
gave notice of his ^{own} sincerity to offer, told them of Steele's
description of the cause, solicited their interest on his
own behalf & went over all the usual topics of
me as a Slaveholder, a non-resident, as having lost
my seat & in short as a great enemy to the country.
Meanwhile my friends had written to the Gulf shore & to
Manchester road & to the upper part of the South River
requesting the freeholders not to come in unless sent
for as there were enough about Ingleton to secure
the election without any extra troubles being taken.
The Poll opened at 12 o'clock & before 3 I had got 100
votes; & at night 30 more - On Tuesday Hill continued
the contest & Mr Hill allowed every man to vote who
came forward in his favour, whether he had a free-
hold or not, he could only obtain nine that day
& at 4 o'clock, the contest closed for want of voters at
the end of the hour - Of the 31 votes he got, 14 are good:
the remainder are questionable or positively bad. Such is
Hill & Steele's strength now at Ingleton - I can give
you no detail which I have written to amuse you &
my other friends at Pictou - ^{The 2 stones will be at your store}
^{two weeks, or early, next.}
Mr Pearson here will bring you for me a grindstone
3 feet diameter & 3 inches broad & single faced - for farm use.
You will pay him 10/- cash on delivery - Ship it round for me.
He has agreed to give me for a grindstone from 22 to 25 inches - 2 inches
broad for edge tools - This may 16/- or 17/- & I will then take the same I thought