

Letter
J. W. Dawson Montreal Apr 9
April 1856

Dear Father,

I received yours of March 28 yesterday, and thank you for your presents to baby which however have not yet arrived but labels will in a day or two as books are usually behind letters. The winter with you must have been quite of the same character as here. It was called severe but the severity consisted in continuous frost not in intensity. The snow is now rapidly going off. The top of our terrace is quite dry and a fine place for the children to play and I am commencing gardening on it - hope to sow some hardy seeds to-day. I feel the want of nearness to your shop and the garden as it will be some labour and expense to stock a garden here. I mean to buy at a

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nursery a few bushes trees &c which
I bear soon and to trust to
the generosity of friends for roots
of shrubs flowers &c when their
gardens are being cleaned up.
If you can hear of any early
vessel coming here it would be
a great help to me and save
expense to send some young trees
& bushes Plums cherries, apples
berry bushes, roses, anything will
be acceptable as we have nothing
and if well packed up with
some moist earth about the roots
they would come safe. The best
way would be to put them in
a longish box, putting in first a
lot of roots of flowers, &c to serve
as packing and keep them moist.
I merely mention this in case any
vessel is coming in way. The top
of the terrace is very dry and probably
any parcel will be too late for it
but the greater part of my garden

is on a most flat where plants
will have a good chance even if
late. Our season is now approaching
As close and I have all my
work so far forward that I hope
to be able to devote a week or two
almost entirely to gardening in May.
and so soon as this is over I
shall think of coming to see you,
if possible with master George in
company; but I think if I take
George I must bargain that
you will return with me to see
our place.

My gardening this year will
be expensive as I have to buy
tools, seeds, plants and have
to put up about 200 yards of fence
which I find in the cheapest form
plain unclipped pickets will cost
about 2/3 per yard. I think however
even it will pay me well in
a few years, more especially as
vegetables are dear and we are

For from the market, and the
ground is rich and supports
large & nice a large quantity. If
I only had your help for a
fortnight and a load of
things from the garden & farm
I should be quite set up. I should
like to know what you are doing
with the farm and if you have a
project of a tenant. If not you
might get some one to cultivate
a part on shares and let out
the upper fields for pasture.

Please say to Agnes that Mrs
I thank her very much for her letter
and the children are quite delighted
with the seeds enclosed.

Yours affectionately
M. Dawson