

shop, but Charles Turner is an exceedingly dull man, and I think it would be but inflicting a deserved punishment on Mr. Patterson to send him to him, unless, indeed, he would ~~bring~~ add a few hundred pounds cash to the stock of the new concern. Both James & Charles board with Mr. Donald, and they appear to be getting on all very well together.

As to my purchasing the property which we at present rent from you, namely the house & lot adjoining A. P. Ross's property and the other small lot down the Lane, on which the old building partly stands, I had given up the idea of it, because I consider the price too high. I have, indeed, given up the ~~idea~~ <sup>intention</sup> of building, at least at present, on Mr. Donald's Lot, because the place is too confined for a place of business, and rather too far removed from the best business part of the town. I have now the option of two better places, i.e. David Christon's <sup>ch</sup> New house, at the foot of the Market, which I can get for a very reasonable price, and John Brown's Lot on the opposite side of the street, where there is room to build a large house, with sufficient accommodation behind it. But, however, to meet my son's desire of possessing the old stand, and my own wish of giving you my money in preference to another, I here make you the offer of £700. say seven hundred pounds Currency for the above described property - say the two Lots. Payable, £400. on delivery of deed, £150. in one year after, & the balance - £150. in two years, both without interest. You will please signify your rejection or acceptance of this offer, not later than the middle of next month, say from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>.

We have had here, a very fine & mild fall, and the  
Harbour

Harbour is still free of ice, but the season of navigation is, ~~open~~  
apparently about a close only one small schooner at anchor  
~~in the~~ <sup>in the</sup> harbour. All our Pictou Colliers are laid up at the Wharfs,  
after a rather unprofitable season to their Owners, owing to  
the low rate of freights during the season. All complain of  
an unusually dull time, and I believe, not without reason.  
The town is crowded with idle people, and nothing for them to do.  
John Ives, and Capt<sup>l</sup> J. M. Keenan are each building a small  
vessel, and Mr. Purves is going to try and finish the vessel  
he had on <sup>last</sup> year, and that is all the work of that kind that  
is likely to go on this winter - and there is nothing else.  
Properties are, however, changing hands. Mr. Taylor sold the "Taylor-  
farm" to one Cameron from the East River, a Rail Road Contractor, for  
the sum of £1550. "The Skinner farm" was also sold, at Auction.  
The stone house, at the head of the Market (Geo. Wilson's place) was  
bought by Andrew Hogg for £350, including the lot of land behind  
it, up to the other street. Griston's property will be in the market  
soon. James, you are no doubt aware, died very suddenly last  
month, and John is winding up the business.

The Hon. David ~~C~~<sup>C</sup>riston is on his death bed. He was seized with  
paralysis some weeks since, and no one expects his recovery. Poor  
David, his son, is also fast approaching his end, although he  
is still moving about. But, I am exhausting your patience with  
Pictou news, which you will, very likely, have more agreeably from  
other sources. I try to offer my sincere Regards to William (He will  
forgive the familiarity) and to his Amiable Wife, and the dear Chil-  
ren - And believe me - My Dear Sir, Yours very truly  
M. W. Wilson

P.S. I am this moment informed that Mr. ~~C~~<sup>C</sup>riston sen<sup>r</sup> died this morning  
M. W. Wilson

Norway House, Pitou, N. S.  
8. Dec. 1857.

My Dear Sir

It was only yesterday that I was made aware that James did not immediately reply to your letter of 14. Ult., and I was not too well pleased with him for the omission. His defence was, that he expected I was to reply to it myself, as he had come up with it for my perusal, immediately on its receipt.

I feel grateful to you for your continued friendly attentions to my son and his concern. I am happy to say, that he is getting on very well, so far as I can see; he continues steady, and attentive to the business, and his sales continue much on the same scale as when you left, except the last month (Nov.) which amounted only to £80. - Cash, but, I believe, Nov. has always been one of the worst months. James Patterson's opposition does not appear to have the slightest effect on our business, and I do not apprehend any thing material in future. His stock is small, & not very choice as you will perceive by his Catalogue, which I enclose and which exhibits, at least one-third more than he actually has. He may, however, hold out a long time, by reason of his stock being so very small, and no expense whatever, except the small rent of £7. 10s. per an. he pays for the shop to A. P. Ross.

Mr. Donald is becoming a very useful hand in the

shop  
James Dawson Esq.

Letter  
M M Pherson  
8 Decr 1857

Replied to  
22 Decr 57

