

Truro 7th April 1860

James Dawson Esq

Dear Sir

In reply to your kind letters of 10th and 26th Octr last, and agreeable to your request in the former, I was about mailing the enclosed statement of my affairs this morning when I recd yours of 31st ult, No doubt you will think me unparadoxably negligent - as I acknowledge I have been - I did not commence "Stocktaking" till Jan'y. which was the busiest month I had had since I began, now when everything connected with the establishment has to be done by one pair of hands - if business is brisk, Stocktaking is likely to get along slowly, I will not attempt to excuse myself for you should have been in possession of this by the middle of March at latest, -

By comparing my acct^s this year, with those of the same months last year, I think the increase of trade is encouraging -

In 1859	Jan'y.	£ 48. 13. 9.	Feb'y.	£ 41. 18. 9.	March	£ 38. 18. 9
1860		£ 74. 6. 3.		£ 50. 10. 0.		£ 39. 6. 3

I now the accompanying statement of my affairs you will see that I owe to furnish the fund
of

1850

£220. 2. 1. cy. And that I have value in Stock, Cash, and debts, to the amt. of £413. 8. 3/4 at least. I had the pleasure of enclosing to Messrs J. Cousins. Dec 1st Exch for £40 stg. which is all I have as yet sent them.

Messrs W^m McQueen & Co. drew on me through a Halifax bank for amt. of their acct. £19. 6. 9. 1/4 by £24. 3. 5. with exch. — at 30 days from date Dec. 13th. — I accepted the draft Jan^y 1st, and when Dec. 13th, honored it. I next paid my note £27. 13. 6. stg. due 31st Jan^y 3rd by for half the amt. of last invoice from Messrs Cowan & Co. My note for the remainder which was due 31st July 3rd next, I have had renewed for four months from date March 7th. — As Mr B. Dawson said Mess^{rs} Cowan & Co. would not be pleased were he to extend the time longer, — I hope to be able to meet it when due, and thus close transactions with that firm for some time —

The money now on hand I was about to invest in Am. Bills of Exch. £50. to Brown, Taggard and Chase, My Boston Agents, — £20. to J. R. Bigelow & Co. — and £10. to R. Carter & Bros. — The orders accompanying each of which when rec^d would nicely replenish my stock, Perhaps it is well that I have not already done so, as the goods,

which rec^d from Bigelow and Carter, would have to be given in charge to Messrs James Primrose & Son, Pictou, or some one in Halifax, to be stored till Aug 25th next, two years from date of their first invoice, I owe each of them a balance at present, as it has been my practice to pay for one order when sending another, —

As I had no letter of Credit to Messrs Brown, Taggard & Chase, I think it would not be improper to pay the balance I owe them, at the same time I will favor them with a small order for some necessaries of which I am out, I have nothing ordered to arrive and will order nothing else till I hear from you —

My intention was next to make a remittance to Messrs W & R Chambers, and Francis Orr & Sons, as I am particularly in need of some of Chambers school books, as well as Orr's Bibles, and sundry indispensable articles of stationery —

You will see from these statements, and the intended appropriation of funds for the future, that however much I would like to pay Mr Primrose £100, on your acct, it was not at present my attention, but that in consideration of the loss of 2 per cent per annum, which you have

sustained for one year, I would and will pay
 8 per cent interest on the £200. of your money
 which is invested in my business, until I can
 pay the principal, which I can assure you shall
 be paid, as soon as I can possibly do so.

I hope you will consider it well invested, and
 give yourself no unnecessary anxiety. If you
 demand additional security, it will be forthcoming.

In the months of April, May, June, & July 1859.
 my cash sales were £27. 2. 6, £44. 1. 3, £38. 7. 6, £36. 7. 6.

Amounting to £145. 18. 9, now if they continue
 as good during the same months this year -

And I reasonably expect a considerable increase -
 I will be able timely to relieve you of the responsi-
 bility incurred by your guarantee, which I am
 sanguine will be the case, -

I am sorry that I have given credit to
 so large an amount, but having kept in mind
 your injunction to give credit to none but men
 of un doubted respectability, I hope to have most
 if not all of it collected, from three to six months hence.

After receiving the note you enclosed to him
 Oct. 10th, Rev Mr Baxter bought Bibles to the amt
 of £7. 15. 11. - I have no doubt that I will retain
 his patronage if I can keep in stock the
 Bibles

the Colporteurs require. — From the enclosed you will see the plain facts of my case, I am only sorry you were not in possession of them two months ago.

I am not aware of any dishonesty in my transactions, If there is I trust I will be able to show that it was accidental and without forethought, Neither am I aware of having committed any more dishonourable act, than my unpardonable negligence toward you, in this instance —

I think you will find that in no communication have I omitted to express a sense of gratitude for the disinterested kindness you have shown me, and the interest you have taken in my welfare —

I hope I may never be allowed to commit a dishonest or dishonourable act, and that I may never give you cause to think me ungrateful —

Awaiting your pleasure

I am Respected Sir
Your humble servant
C. S. Sterns