

Truro Nova Scotia Jan^y 2^d 1861

James Dawson Esq
Dear Sir

I rec^d a letter from
Father yesterday stating that Mr Primrose
had a long letter from you, in which you
wished him to get security for the capital
invested in my business -

Mr Dawson - you yourself recommended
me to come to Truro and commence the book
business - you lent me £200. to be repaid by
instalments as I could spare it from the
business - you knew that I had no capital
and how reluctant I was to commence as
I did - The money was lent in kindness
no doubt - but has it proved a kindness?

On the contrary it has been such a continual
source of annoyance and uneasiness, that
it has at times almost unfitted me for
business or anything else, It would have
been wise in me had I never touched it -
I have more than once regretted doing so,
and can expect no peace of mind until
it is all paid -

The £200. has all been invested in my
business except £14. which is in Father's hands.
I have stock and debts to more than that
amt. and although there may be expenses,

unsaleable, and unsuitable goods in the stocks of which you will find more or less in all business establishments, as one hardly knows what is saleable in a new place, until he has tried it - I think there is nothing I have, but what is in daily use by schools and families generally, and nothing that I may not reasonably expect to sell - If I were ordering a new stock for the Inuro market, with more experience than I had three years ago, I could still fall into the same error, perhaps to a greater extent -

About the family coming to Inuro to live, Father has been for some time anxious to dispose of his property in Pictou, in order to pay all demands against him, which he intends doing as soon as possible -

Should the place realize any thing like its value, it will leave a considerable balance after all debts are paid, and as no one would buy it while the family were living in it - they moved to Inuro, but are no burden to me any more than if they were not here -

It has cost me 12/6 per week to live, ever since I have been in Inuro and I may as well pay that to my mother as any one else -

Since I wrote you Sept 11th I have rec'd letters from all my furnishers, relieving you

from any further responsibility on my acct.
I have paid them all with the exception of
Messrs Francis Cursons, to whom I still owe
about £40 sty. and will pay them when I order
a spring stock, which I must do if I continue
the business, as I am entirely out of many
salable articles -

With regard to that part of your former
letter where you say "you consider you have
no security just now," Father having deprived
you of that by breaking his promise not to
mortgage his property further without your
consent, and he has made that act the more
offensive by endeavouring to conceal it from
your agent, who learned the fact not from him
but from another source - The fact is - Mr
Primrose had repeatedly reminded Father that
you expected half your money in June, 1860,
and for him to lose no opportunity in
getting it, an opportunity offered, and he
borrowed the money, but it was for this
purpose, and no attempt was made to
conceal the fact from Mr Primrose -

The interest was duly paid, and so would
half the principal have been - had I not recd
your letter of 30th Aug. giving us intell
June 1861 to make up the £100. and stating
that you had instructed Mr Primrose to

Letter

Chas S Sterns

2nd Jan 1861

receive it in sums of £25. as I could spare it from the business without being crippled. All I can spare without injuring the business at present is the interest. Now if you have altered your mind and must have the principal immediately please let me know and I will order no more stock and turn all I can into money to make up the £200. And wind up. I will then be just where I started from three years ago.

I know of nothing else I can do about it. Money has never been so scarce as it is here at present - I look for a change for the better soon, as when things are at the worst they sometimes mend -

Wishing you all the compliments of the

Season - I am Dr Sir

yours truly

C. S. Sterns

P.S. - I suppose Mr Primrose has already informed you what arrangements he has made with Father as to security for the £200.

C.S.