

Letter  
I Quinase & Co  
13 Aug 1861

*[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

Pictou 13<sup>th</sup> August 1861

James Dawson Esq.

Dear Sir

We have not written you for some time having nothing of importance to communicate

We forget whether we wrote you to pay William \$15. 50% Dividend on his Gas stock rec<sup>d</sup> in March John Sutherland paid to you on account 12<sup>th</sup> April. McKee has shingled the house and is now about repairing the foundation. Sterus has paid \$12 - the interest but not the \$20 additional promised. We will send account when house repairs are finished.

- In confidence -

James McPherson turned out a perfect debauchee - his father has sent him away from home & put the store in

Charge of Mr Gault - formerly  
a bookseller in Halifax

Sad news from the Mission  
Mr Johnston is dead after his life  
having been attempted by savages  
altho they did not wound him  
his disease was of the brain -  
about one third the inhabitants  
of Antwerp, Tanna & Erromanga  
dead of measles. must close  
as mail is making up.

Yours truly  
James Finlayson

dreadful hurricanes have swept  
the Island & Mr Geddis Church  
& schoolhouse are burnt -