

Pictou November 5th 1858

Mr James Dawson

My Dear Sir

I have often
thought of writing you a few lines but
have as often felt that I should devote some
special hour to this friendly office.
Very probably I would under this feeling
have delayed beyond the present period
had not a letter and enclosure come
from Pictouning Assize to my
address and with special reference to
you. The N. B. Minister of that place
has been applied to by the friends of
the party deceased to trace the history of
some property on River John Road. I
have thought that the most direct and

proper way in my situation is to forward the documents, which seem to give every information wanted to guide you to such steps as will satisfy all parties. The printed circular or advertisement had better be returned to me or to the parties with whom you may correspond in Scotland. I shall be glad to hear from you at an early day as I mean to write to Mr. W. Gray by the next mail for Liverpool.

With regard to Pictou News, I dare no doubt that by the public prints and private correspondence you are sufficiently informed.

Our congregational affairs move on with smooth and steady pace. We have no ground of desquint within any boundaries that may be amongst us are too unavailing to have reached my ears. The last Synod took a stand on the grand principle of Total Abstinence which caused us some trouble. A resolution passed by a small majority which was

to deviate that principle into a term
of Communion. As you might anticipate
this caused great dissatisfaction among the
leading members of our Church. For a time
a secession seemed imminent, but matters
have cooled down and as the action on
the law under question is suspended for
a year there will be no more trouble in
this matter for some time. I trust that more
moderate and prudent and efficient Councils
will prevail at next Synod. In the mean-
time all the Dissenters and a few
Sympathizers have withdrawn from the
fellowship of the Church.

Our hope of Union with the Free Church
in this Province is now quite as reliable as
it has ever been and most probably next
Fall will intrap its consummation.

Your old friends here are all well.
Please give my kind regards to Mr. William
and his good Lady. Mrs. Payne desires
me to acknowledge the receipt of a very handsome
and useful Gift from you. She meant to have
written you but is at present out in a very

fit state to attend to letter writing.
I hope you will excuse her apparent
want of courtesy and accept this acknow-
ledgement, in lieu of what in better
state of health she would have been forward
to have transmitted.

with best wishes for you

Continued health & prosperity

J. H. Mason
Yours very truly
Jane Bayne

Letter

Mrs. J. H. Bayne

5 Nov 1858