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Government House,
Hanoi, Nona Sutra,
January 1, 1833.

The attorney general of Nona Sutra, Mr Young, having acquainted me with your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England, to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History, I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion; and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education in this Province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties, which the new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.

I am

Sir

Yours faithfully

(Signed)

J. Gaspar de Merchant

(Lieutenant Governor of Nona Sutra)

The original of the above was sent to Sir C. Bell.

Copy

Halifax N.S. 4th May 1854

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the high attainments of Mr Dawson, in the various branches of Natural History.

Though I had often heard of his geological researches in this Province, as well as his contributions to the Geological Society of London, I only made his acquaintance about five years ago, on occasion of his delivering a course of lectures on Natural History in Dalhousie College, Halifax. These lectures were delivered at the request of the Governors of that institution, were largely attended and highly appreciated. Since then I have enjoyed much friendly intercourse with him, and repeatedly heard him lecture before the Mechanics Institute here, and also at the late Provincial Industrial Exhibition, and am more and more firmly persuaded that Mr D. is not only a complete enthusiast in Natural Science, but possessed of extensive attainments in all its departments, especially in Mineralogy and Geology both theoretical and

practical, as well as of great aptitude
in communicating his stores of know-
ledge to others.

I know something of the
diversified qualifications required for
the chair of Natural History in the
University of Edinburgh; and have
no hesitation in saying that should
Mr Dawson be chosen to occupy that
honourable position, he will not only
do credit to the University but
advance largely the general interests
of Science.

Wm. Dawson, Minister
& Lecturer on Natural History

Note - Mr Dawson was President of the Committee
of the 1858 Industrial Exhibition, and has lately
been appointed Superintendent of Educa-
tion for the Province.

The original of the above
was sent to W. Chambers Esq.

