

Albany July 20th 1859

My Dear Prof. Dawson

I must plead guilty to many breaches of politeness arising from my dilatory habits or indolence if you please to call it, for I have a letter of yours of months ago among a hundred other unanswered ones. But my excuse is that I was just then completing my Iowa Report and preparing to start for the west.

I will only allude to one point and apologise for Mrs Hall not calling on Mrs Dawson while in Montreal - She had but a day aside from necessary business for Josephine, and that day

was a very rainy one and she did not call on any of her friends in Montreal as she had fully intended to do. Please make her apology to Mrs Dawson.

Some time since I wrote Sir William to learn the names of institutions in Canada to which the Iowa Report should be distributed but I have no reply.

The act provides that the Governor shall distribute 250 copies of institutions at home and abroad, and I desire to know those in Canada best entitled to the book, in the order of their standing so that we may act accordingly as we cannot supply all — I could very soon send a package

to Montreal for private
persons on my own account
but the others will be
somewhat later. Sir William
has not told me if I may
send them all to his care
in one package.

Some three weeks since
I received a letter from G. E.
Fenwick M.D. asking me
to participate in the celebration
of the opening of the new Nat.
Hist. Societys rooms and to
address the meeting on that
occasion - not fully understand-
ing from his note whether
an inaugural or principal
address was ~~expected of me~~ I
wrote to inquire, fearing
I might not be able
to meet the expectation
of my Canadian friends
to whose kindness I feel

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much in detail and which
I shall always be happy
to reciprocate -

Having heard nothing
further on the subject
I am at a loss how to
understand the matter.

- My third volume is
well on the way to
a completion but will
be delayed by the unfinished
condition of the plates -

I am very sincerely

Yours &c

James Hall

~~At. Should get printed fragments
and collated with the original~~

