

Inverary

21. April 1868

Dear Mr Home

I have just heard
from Mr Davidson of the Bank
in Edinburgh that you are one
of the Curators who have to
elect a Principal of the University
of Edinburgh in place of the
late Sir David Brewster.

I sent my friend Sir G.
Gibson Craig a copy of a letter
which I had written to the
Duke of Argyll on the qualifications
of Dr Dawson - Principal of the

Montreal University, the Chief
Minister in Canada & who is a Candidate
for the vacant office. Mr. Davidson
tells me he has a very high opinion
of his Administrative powers &
so had the late Sir Edmund Head,
who, as Governor Gen^l of Canada,
found him of great use in
assisting to promote Science &
Educational plans.

Some of Davidson's numerous
geological papers published in
our London Geological Journal
are probably known to you,
besides his separate works

on our favourite Science the air-
breathers of the Coal, the Geology
of Acadia & "Archaia" - he is
now engaged on a great memoir
on the Devonian Flora of North
America for the Royal Society of
London & Sir Roderick Murchison
& I have recommended the Society
to grant a sum of money for
the illustration of that memoir

Sir William Logan told me
that the Canada Survey had
been most effectively assisted
by Dawson's gratuitous services
rendered to them as a

Paleontologist in Botany and
Other departments

I have known Dawson more
than a quarter of a Century & think
him a man of very superior
Talents, industry & character, who
would do much to raise the tone
of any Academic body over
which he presided, & so long as
you are without a special
Chair of Geology, he would gladly
lend his assistance in forwarding
that branch.

His income would not be
improved if he obtained the
Edinburgh post. but he wishes

to command the Society of
a larger number of Scientific
Men than he has access to
in Montreal & to have greater
opportunities of improving his
Knowledge. He is in the
prime of life & I do not think
any one of the Candidates whose
names I have heard would do
such credit to your Choice

Believe me
Dear Mr Horn
your truly
Chas Lyell

D. Milne Horn Esq

Letter to
Melville
1868

San W. Lloyd
21 Apr. 1868

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