



The Masse

Métis Jan'y 15 1870

Principal Dawson

Sir

A few evenings ago I rec'd  
a package of French almanacs  
which I have no doubt came  
from you because 1. The writing  
of the address on the wrapper  
closely resembles your handwrit-  
ing and 2. In one corner are the  
initials "J. W. D." Taking there-  
fore for granted that you are  
the sender I most heartily thank  
you for them. I shall presently  
distribute them among the pupils  
of our French school as rewards.  
Before doing so I shall put

pasteboard covers on them and  
make them like bound books  
thus they will be better taken care  
of. Last Sabbath afternoon  
I attended our French School.  
I said a few words to the children  
suitable to the New Year and when  
they were about to separate gave  
each one a beautiful card with  
an inscription on the back of it  
beginning with the words "Ecole  
du dimanche, L'Annee des  
Morts, Mérité." The poor children  
were quite enraptured. Such  
treatment is quite new to them.  
Some of them called on me on  
New Year's day and the rest  
on the following Monday to wish

me "la bonne amie". Sixteen  
now attend - all who can do so.  
Some time ago seven went away  
to a place as many miles off. Two  
are now at St. aux Nombres. When  
the cure comes round he gene-  
rally makes two or three stay away  
for a day or two but after that  
they come back. I now think of  
trying to make Protestants of them.  
My design is to teach them the Gos-  
pel way of salvation.

Of course you have seen  
about the entree with the  
Romanists here into which I  
have been drawn by a marriage  
which I solemnized a few months  
ago. The two letters which I sent

to the Witness were considerably abridg'd  
when they appeared - I sent away a  
third a few days ago. I have just  
sent one in French to the Mineral  
paper but I do not expect fair  
play. Romish justice is usually  
of the jug-handle kind - one sided.  
However the writing of the letter has  
been an exercise in French so my labour  
has not been altogether thrown away.  
The Mot-Lavie marriage brings out  
to view 1. The horrible impurity of the  
Romish Ch. in the matter of dispensation  
2. The injustice of the law in recognizing  
as valid a marriage for which a dis-  
pensation has been obtained wh.  
in other circumstances it pronounces  
invalid. 3. The unsatisfactory  
state of the law as regards marriage

licenses. 4. It brings up  
the question "Is affinity in  
any case an impediment  
to marriage?"

I see that the fair sex  
(Sisters of Charity at Ottawa) love  
the dollars. I wonder if there  
is a cable between this world and  
Purgatory for the Holy Sisters  
at Ottawa once told Larocque  
that his deceased wife had to  
remain 3 months longer in  
Purgatory. I wonder when  
poor M<sup>r</sup> Geis' time will be  
up. He was in Purgatory on  
the 7<sup>th</sup> of last April for a  
requiem mass was sung for  
his soul. Of course if he was  
at rest what was the use

of a requiem mass? I sup-  
pose a good deal more of Mrs  
de Geis money will have to  
be let out of her purse and put  
into the coffers of the Church  
before his soul is let out of Par-  
gatory.

A widow here whose hus-  
band died 8 months before was  
lately married. A dispensation  
had first to be obtained. If it  
was right for her to marry so  
soon after her late husband's  
death the Church shd have put  
no obstacle in the way. If it  
was wrong she shd on no  
account have allowed it. The  
widow was attired in deep

morning when she was married  
Did you ever <sup>before</sup> hear of a bride  
wearing mourning on her wedding  
day?

I know of a person here  
who married his first cousin  
but he had first to use soap  
and water, in the form of giving  
\$50 to the Bishop, in order to  
remove the simplicity of such a  
marriage.

If we should be separated till  
next summer I shall be very  
glad to see you down here. Poor  
Gibson restituted not rested  
here last summer. Mr Laid  
has a residence in this part  
of Her Majesty's Dominions

But I must now draw  
to a close.

Yours

July 1790

I remain

yours truly

Thos Fenwick