

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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Institute of Technology
Boston. Nov. 2. 1872

My dear Dr. Dawson.

I count today four weeks since my arrival in Boston, a time which has passed, for the most part, in struggling against adverse circumstances sufficient to discourage one. I found no properly-arranged place for lectures, collection solitary. but have at last succeeded in arranging tolerably a large room by means of a partition, getting cases put up for books, a large set of glazed cases for collections, a place for notes for my lectures. I am now giving two lectures a week, and after July 10. shall give four. Besides this I give, to begin soon, an evening course of 18 lectures. I find the Inst. disposed to do all I can, but its income is small, & its growth has been so rapid that the present building is very inadequate for 350 students. The plan for a new building, when put up next year, is in preparation for 3^d & 4th year's men only. In it I shall have a fine suite of rooms, study, laboratory, lecture room but that is two years off. I feel impatient to find so much to be done. The whole Institute is the growth

of seven years only - Still a man at my age does
not like to wait for things to grow. I feel that I should
never have left Canada - where I had spent 25 years -
and had not fate been adverse, i. e. the first visit to U.S.L.
should never have done so. I cannot tell you how home-
sick I am - nor how I have longed for your society, since
I have found myself here. I have said a score of times
that I wished myself back in Montreal once more.
For I feel I was too old a tree to transplant - & had
I but a niche in Montreal once more, would
return & never leave it. At my age new ties are
not easily formed, nor old ones severed without
a severe pain - I do not know how I may feel
two months hence, but unless my feelings change
I shall hope that fortune may open some way
for me to return to Canada. I had hoped
to get back to see you by the New Year, but now
find that I cannot leave here before the last week in
January, when the mid-term examinations give me
a little leisure, some ten days probably. I go to N. York
for Nov. 12 to give the opening address before the
Amer. Geogr. Society, on Paleogeography. Especially
that of the N. Amer. continent. I shall discuss the
Eozic continent, the great western ^{paleozoic} basin, the

distribution of the later paleozoic rocks on the east-
ward. Then the recent glacial history. Taking
much from your late paper. Your White Mt.
flora & Gray's Address - I wish I had in some
shape your views about the relations of the
flora of the N.E. coast - which you have discussed
with me. I am not sure where you have written
it. but believe it is in your essay in the which
was inserted in some copies of your report on
the Devon flora of B. N. A. ^{1st in the Can. Nat. Hist.} & among your
stuffs. You may think I string strange pearls
in the thread of paleogeography - but I trust to
make an apparent connection, while I endeavor
to show at the same time that physical geogr-
aphy is but a department of geology, considered
in its widest sense.

I hope your iron interests in the hands of Mrs.
Prentice will turn to some profit. I am sorry
that the Ores mine sale is a failure. for I counted
on some small gain from that. & that the Con. Exp.
Co. of Va. has apparently fallen through - I seem
unfortunate on all sides, and alone in the world
forgotten & alone - would I had married long
ago, and were not thus a solitary, had I been

the promptings of my heart instead of the dictates of prudence
I should today probably have been a happier man. You
do not guess, perhaps, the names of the whose memory is
the strongest tie to me in Montreal. but I will tell
you and name Miss Lunn - a secret never told
of any one before. I know she is too good for me,
but I hope she may one day know how much
love she owes her - Had I the means to provide for
my sisters I would soon know my fate. though
it would perhaps be an adverse one -

I hope that you may carry out your plan of visiting
Boston about the New Year. and shall mean then see some
who I prize. Regret very much to have left without seeing
your son George - to whom I beg to be kindly remembered
as also to Mrs. & Miss Dawson & your family.

I have but little news from Montreal as my sisters
are but poor correspondents. Thus the ladies above
is planning this winter. The plan something
of the kind is now discussed here. 12 lectures on
English literature by "eminent hands" one each
evening given Saturday afternoon. Dedications of 1000.
and there arranged to follow a similar course on
Natural Science. We believe perhaps to a regular
course like that of Montreal next year. Remain
as dear Dr. Dawson always devotedly, Wm. J. Story Hunt