

Friday Evening

Dear Dr. Dawson,

As I am anxious to submit my Report to you in good time, to prevent its causing you inconvenience, I decided on writing it last night, & completed my task to my great relief. I found it a difficult matter to make it anything but a replica of that of last year. I hope you will criticize freely, & excuse my sending you only the rough copy — I have not time to re-write it, & do not like

to give Miss Gardner the
trouble, until corrections are
made, as it would oblige her
to make a second copy for
the printer - I send letters
from Dr. Johnson, Mr. Lobbey
& Professor Campbell - I find
that I was not so much to blame
as I supposed myself with regard
to the Synopsis, he thought
I had returned it for alterations
& forgotten it - I can insert
the title of Dr. Johnson's Lectures
at the last - In drawing out
the report I dwelt on the special
points we discussed at yesterday's
meeting, the desirability of

names being given in without
canvassing, Schools being induced
to attend, & Students persuaded
to go up for Examination — that
intended if possible, in some
manner to bring in the new
High School, but found it difficult,
in the first place, & in the second,
thought it wise for this year not
to give any special reference
on account of the sore feeling
that still exists, with regard to
it — I mentioned this hurriedly,
and in a rather blundering
manner to Mr. Dawson, without
time to explain quite my
meaning — the very best

Year has passed heavily on
some of the Day Schools, & this,
with the new High School, has
reduced the number of scholars
As we have several names on
our Member & Committee list,
who have suffered in some
degree, it seemed better to
leave that point untouched -
If you do not agree with me -
I pray tell me - I hope you
will believe I have no personal
feeling in the question, I have
not suffered, & think it well
that we should be all put on
one metal, & that there is ample
room for all -

I am afraid you will detect
in the last page much that is
laboured, & only too evidently
the result of a wish to get sufficient
copy to fill the report. If I have
any happy inspiration later
I will take advantage of it, without
deviating from the sense —

I have just received your
note & synopsis of your intended
course in Botany. I wish you
knew the essential service
you have done us by permitting
these lectures. The subject
has been so often suggested
without our having been able
to carry it out — This

alone with course. Our success
for next winter - I hope you
do not consider me sufficiently
presumptuous to advise any
alteration in a plan laid down
for one of your two special subjects -
but I may say, that the subject
given for each lecture has made
me feel anxious to study for
the course
myself -

I have copied the by-laws with
amendment - with regard to
Professor Campbell's lectures he
divided his course into two parts
a nation in each lecture - four
were taken up by the Scandinavian
nations down to the Union of Colman

(which is a labor period than
that of any other given) The Texts
the Sagas & literature such as the
Mittelungen Lied — & the primitive
races of America — It seemed
to me that this would require
such extended reading, so many
different books, & besides go over
ground already very fully
traversed by Prof. Cornish - D. Leach
& Kelly that it seemed advisable
to confine our attention more to
the East —

Pray excuse this being a
rather incoherent production
I am very tired - having
written my report, letters &

Merrill
Apr 24

The different gentlemen
are asked to speak at our meeting.
my English letters, & several business
letters since yesterday evening -

All were much pleased to alter
the day for the Annual Meeting
in order to secure your presence
Believe me

Yours truly
Mary Mercer

The Report will of course require
polishing, proper punctuation &
a little more attention paid
to Bibles throughout -