

Quebec July 4<sup>th</sup> 1876

J. W. Dawson Esq. Lh. D. F. R. S  
+c+c  
Montreal

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 24<sup>th</sup>  
ult. acknowledged by my telegram  
of the same date came duly to hand.  
I also received at the same time  
a telegram stating that a remon-  
strance would follow & I therefore  
awaited its reception. In the  
interval I was called away from  
home, and upon my return two days  
ago found your second letter  
with copy of remonstrance await-  
ing me.

In reply to those letters  
I beg leave to say that these

appears to have been some grave misapprehension in reference to the recent appointment of a Commissioner to form part of the Protestant board of school Commissioners of the City of Montreal. The assumption by you that Dr McVicar "has been summarily dismissed even in advance of the expiry of his term" is altogether unfounded.

His term of office expired on the first of July and under the provisions of the Statute it became necessary previous to that date to appoint a successor — to come into office upon completion of the prescribed term.

That appointment was made without the slightest disparagement to the previous incumbent. The very terms of the law imply that the office was not

expected to be perpetual — but that other citizens should in their turn be called upon to fulfil its duties, and the Government were glad to avail themselves of the services of Mr Dawson whose fitness I am pleased to see you yourself admit. —

It may further be observed that the duty of appointing a Commissioner having been placed by the Statute upon the Government, it could scarcely be expected that they would leave the nomination to the Board of Commissioners and thereby in effect make the Corporation a close one.

I regret that the action of the Government has not met with your approval — but I hope you will agree with me in concluding that in the interests of Protestant Education no better selection could have been made.

I remain  
My dear Sir  
Your obedient servant  
George B. Baker

Burke

Aug 1/46

Burke